

## Committee to study Arab security

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab League Council has set up a special committee to discuss pan-Arab national security and submit recommendations to the council in six months. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Tuesday. Pan-Arab national security was among the topics discussed by the council during its meetings in Cairo this week, the minister said in a statement upon his return to Amman from the meeting. Other topics included the Palestine question, the situation in southern Lebanon, weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, the "no-fly" zone imposed on southern Iraq, Libya and the situation in Somalia, he said. Arab-African relations and Arab ties with European and Latin American countries were also reviewed at the meeting, Dr. Abu Jaber said. He said the council listened to a detailed briefing about the situation in Arab Jerusalem and calls for financial assistance for its Arab population presented by Faisal Hussein, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel. Dr. Abu Jaber said he presented Jordan's concept of pan-Arab national security underlining the need to end Arab differences.

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## Libya tightens curbs on Tunisian border

TUNIS (R) — Libya has tightened border controls with Tunisia and is "harassing" visitors, a Tunisian newspaper said Tuesday. Tunisians are required to pay a five Libyan dinar (\$18) car tax to enter Libya while those leaving have to pay a one dinar (\$3.60) "cleaning tax," the daily Al Sahab said. Exports of Libyan produce to Tunisia have been halted, the report said, and Libya has reestablished customs and border posts on the frontier which it removed several years ago. The stricter border controls, which began Saturday, have created long queues for Tunisians waiting to cross the border while Libyans are allowed to pass freely, travellers told the newspaper. There has been increasing friction between the two one-time close allies since Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi said recently that Tunisia was so short of water it would soon have to merge with Libya or its western neighbour Algeria. Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said the statements were insulting and diplomats said Tunisia had expressed its displeasure to Libya's ambassador.

## Belgian team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A Belgian parliamentary delegation Tuesday arrived here on a several-day visit for talks with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, as well as the chairman and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House. The delegation, which is headed by the deputy speaker of Belgian parliament, includes heads of parliamentary blocs.

## Yemeni team due

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yemeni health delegation headed by Health Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Karim Al Jumeidi arrives here Wednesday on a four-day official visit to Jordan for talks on scopes of cooperation in health services and the situation of Yemeni patients being treated in Jordanian hospitals. The delegation will sign a cooperation agreement with Jordan.

## Arafats send dove of peace to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sent a symbol of peace to a Tel Aviv wedding. Guests were surprised to discover he had sent a wreath adorned by a white dove to Latif Dori, an Israeli Jewish peace campaigner whose son was getting married. Mr. Dori said Tuesday an attached note was signed "President of Palestine, Yasser Arafat and his wife." Mr. Dori, a friend of Mrs. Arafat's family, led the first group of Israelis to defy a ban on contacts with "terror groups" when they met Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) members for talks on peace in 1986. He is still challenging a six-month sentence.

## Sheikh Zayed meets top PLO official

AMMAN (R) — A top Palestinian official has met the president of the United Arab Emirates in the first such high-level contact since the Gulf crisis soured ties between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Gulf states, an Arab diplomat said Tuesday. The diplomat said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas met Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan in Morocco last week to discuss prospects of improving the PLO's ties with the Gulf states. Morocco's King Hassan, who enjoys close links with the two, arranged the meeting which took place during the Gulf leader's current visit to the kingdom, the diplomat added. "The meeting could be a turning point in improving Palestinian-Gulf relations," the diplomat told Reuters.

## Iraq to start clearing ships

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has said it would begin a salvage operation to clear three southern ports of 32 ships sunk during the Gulf war. Transport and Communications Minister Abdul Satfar Al Mijni, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the operation in the ports of Khor Al Zubair, Khor Abdullah and Um Qasr would start soon. The minister said the ships included oil tankers "sunk during the raids and attacks by the American Atlantic planes of aggression on Iraq."

## New envoy takes over Iraq's U.N. seat

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Nizar Hamdoun, until recently under-secretary in Iraq's Foreign Ministry, took on one of the toughest assignments in Baghdad's foreign service Monday when he presented his credentials as his country's new U.N. envoy. He succeeds Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari, who recently left to become Iraq's representative at the Paris-based U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Mr. Hamdoun, 48, was Iraq's ambassador to Washington from 1984 to 1987, after the two countries reestablished diplomatic relations following a 16-year break. As under-secretary in the Foreign Ministry Mr. Hamdoun supervised Iraq's relations with North and South America, Western Europe, Africa and Asia.

## Syria, Israel say they want to narrow gaps

Low-key movement seen on other tracks; Bush sees brighter prospects for progress

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Israel and Syria said Tuesday they were willing to work to narrow their differences in Middle East peace negotiations, and Israel said the issue of occupied territory was on the agenda.

On the second day of renewed peace talks, both sides sounded conciliatory as their negotiating teams entered the State Department.

The somewhat upbeat tone contrasted with the more negative reports emerging from Israel's separate talks with Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians where no progress was reported on Monday.

Israel gave Syria a new document Monday outlining the basis for the negotiations, responding to an earlier Syrian paper presented in talks late last month.

Syria said the paper was disappointing because it did not contain a specific Israeli commitment to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights. But Syrian officials pointedly stopped short

of rejecting the document out of hand. "We are going to put questions to the Israeli delegation in order to see why all these important elements that are necessary for peace are missing in their paper," said chief Syrian delegate Mouwafak Al Allaf.

"Maybe if we can safeguard or save from that paper one or two elements that can be added if they are missing to the Syrian document, which is really the basic document, then we shall do it," he said.

Israel's chief negotiator, Itamar Rabinovich, said he was ready to discuss the Golan Heights.

"We are of course willing to include the territorial issue on the agenda of the negotiations. We know that it is important to the Syrians and we know that for negotiations to succeed and culminate in an agreement, the negotiations and the agreement must reflect the wishes of both sides," he said.

Israel is pressing for a firmer Syrian commitment to full peace

and normal relations, including open borders, with the Jewish state.

Syria wants Israel to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights and says it is willing to accommodate Israel's security needs.

Mr. Rabinovich said it was still possible, working with both the Syrian and Israeli texts, to come up with an agreed statement by the time the talks end on Sept. 24.

"Knowing what the Israeli paper is, I can say with certainty that should the Syrians be willing to modify some of their formulations a joint statement is within reach," he said.

The talks resumed after it was reported that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had made a secret visit to Syria in an effort to mediate between Israel and Damascus (see page 2). The news added to the sense of momentum in the negotiations.

That was not the impression when Israeli and Palestinian negotiators completed what

(Continued on page 4)

## Assad backs European role in Mideast peace process

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas he favoured greater European involvement in the Middle East peace process, his spokesman said Tuesday.

"President Assad welcomed a French and European role to be played in pushing the peace process towards the desired objectives," Joubran Kourieh told Reuters.

Mr. Dumas met Mr. Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara in the Syrian port city of Latakia Monday. His visit went unreported by the official Syrian media and was not disclosed by Paris until he returned home.

Mr. Dumas told Europe 1 radio after the visit a new wish for peace from both Syria and Israel had given the Middle East talks fresh momentum.

"There may be in the not too distant future the prospect of peace in this region," he said (see page 2).

Mr. Kourieh said Dumas briefed Mr. Assad on contacts conducted by the French government in connection with the peace talks and "the role which France could play in pushing forward these talks."

He said Mr. Assad reiterated Syria's keen interest in achieving a just and comprehensive settlement.

Officials said Mr. Sharara briefed the cabinet's weekly session Tuesday on the progress of the peace talks in Washington, saying Syria continued to demand a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and all occupied Arab lands.

They said Mr. Sharara stressed that security and stability in the region required a comprehensive solution on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

China quits talks

China has informed the United States it is boycotting multilateral Middle East talks on arms control

which began in Moscow Tuesday, a senior U.S. State Department official said.

China, along with the four other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, attended the first session of the talks in Washington last April.

But the Chinese said President George Bush's decision to sell 150 F-16 jet fighters to Taiwan two weeks ago would make it difficult for them to cooperate in arms control efforts.

The boycott of the Moscow meeting appeared to be the first result of that threat, the official said.

"They've said they will not be going to the Mideast talks in Moscow. We will be arguing against that," the official, who insisted on anonymity, told Reuters.

The morning session in Moscow was devoted mostly to introductions, and participants plan-

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## Peres says Palestinians could have better life

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, on a rare visit to the occupied Gaza Strip, said on Tuesday Israel was proposing a better life for Palestinians but their leaders were delaying it.

"In Washington they are suggesting a better future... we are suggesting a better present," Mr. Peres said in a tour drawing attention to the resumption of Middle East peace talks in the United States.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that Israel's desire to discuss limited self-rule for the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was being stymied by Palestinian demands to discuss subjects such as human rights.

Mr. Peres inspected construction for housing and a sewage treatment plant in the Jabalya refugee camp.

"We know there are some very demanding needs in the way of water, sewage and jobs," said Mr. Peres. He told reporters after his tour that progress in the peace talks could raise the local standard of living.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a

(Continued on page 4)

## Germany, Israel agree on cooperation but no aid

BONN (Agencies) — Germany and Israel have pledged to boost economic cooperation but did not settle on any financial aid package from Bonn for the Jewish state, German government officials said Tuesday.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed in talks late Monday to expand economic and technological cooperation, Mr. Kohl's government said in a statement.

A leading daily newspaper said that cooperation would not include huge sums of money to help the Jewish state cope with a wave of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Past reports have said Israel would like at least five billion marks (\$3.4 billion) in loan guarantees and grants, some in the form of reparations for Nazi war crimes never paid by former East Germany.

But Israel Radio said at the start of Mr. Rabin's journey to Germany that he would request about \$670 million in aid to create jobs for Soviet immigrants in universities and research institutions.

Some 400,000 newcomers have moved to Israel from the former Soviet Union since mid-1989, placing a heavy burden on the economy.

Last month, Mr. Rabin won U.S. President George Bush's

support for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to settle immigrants. According to Mr. Kohl's office, the chancellor and Mr. Rabin Monday discussed the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

The statement from the chancellor's office said Mr. Kohl "underscored the federal government's readiness to intensify the close and trusting cooperation between Germany and Israel."

"Both sides agreed to strengthen their economic and technological cooperation," the chancellor's office said without revealing any details.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung, a respected Munich-based daily, reported Mr. Kohl told Mr. Rabin that because of the high costs of unification, Germany is not in a position to give Israel a similar magnitude of support that is being offered by the United States.

However, Mr. Kohl told Mr. Rabin that Germany would ask the 12-nation European Community to help Israel overcome its resettling problems, the newspaper said.

Mr. Rabin invited Mr. Kohl to visit Israel and the chancellor accepted, said the statement. No date for the visit was given.

The Israeli prime minister flew to Berlin Tuesday morning, to take part in a congress of the Socialist International.

## King, Major hold talks on peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held talks in London with British Prime Minister John Major on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

The King, who is recuperating from a surgery he underwent in a U.S. hospital last month, also discussed with Mr. Major Jordanian-British relations, Jordan Television reported.

The television showed footage of the meeting, which was attended by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Jordanian Ambassador to Britain Faisal Ayyoub.

Mr. Major congratulated the King over his successful surgery, it said.

The King arrived in London early this month from the U.S. and is expected to return home soon.

Prime Minister Sir John Major said early this week after a visit to London that the King was recovering well and "better than expected," and that he accompanied His Majesty on a visit to an airshow.



## Regent calls for Mideast 'energy charter'

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called for an "energy charter" in the Middle East along the lines being adopted by Europe and based on security of supply, safeguarding the environment and efficiency of production.

The Regent, in a speech delivered at the Second World Congress on Renewable Energy at Reading, England, reaffirmed Jordan's belief in "achieving a synergy between people, resources and security" in the Middle East.

In the speech, entitled "The Need for a Global Energy Charter" and delivered on his behalf by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Hussein, the Regent renewed his call for a conference for security and cooperation in the Middle East similar to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Following is the full text of the speech:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to

address this Second World Congress on Renewable Energy. It is also a great honour to do so in the presence of such an eminent international audience of engineers, scientists and technologists taking part in this major event. Since conservation of energy and protection of the environment are the two most serious issues facing mankind today, the theme of this conference is very important and timely.

This theme brings to my mind the observations of an eminent scholar in the field of international political economy. In discussing the politics and economics of energy, Professor Susan Strange has stated that what is needed is "an analytical framework for relating the impact of states' actions on the markets for various sources of energy, with the impact of these markets on the politics and actions, and indeed the economic development and national security of the states." The vast literature on energy poses a problem for the analyst in terms of what to look for in the haystack of facts and opinions.

Professor Strange compares the dilemma of the energy analyst in selecting his facts and opinions with

that of the historian. She states that "as E. H. Carr observed about the writing of history, the question is like the fish displayed on the fishmongers' marble slab. Which fish out of all the thousands swimming in the oceans are selected, caught and sold?"

In Jordan we have tried to resolve the dilemma of which fish to choose, by looking at the broader picture of the regional political economy. Energy cannot be meaningfully considered in the absence of the major structures of that political economy. We therefore believe in a matrix that relates energy to people (or demography), environment, water, debt, democracy and security. This may sound like a tall order. But in our semi-arid region, water and energy are two sides of the same coin. Demography, whether in respect of the population explosion or the involuntary mass movement of people, has dramatically affected our fragile water situation. In a futile search for security, oil revenues were diverted to fuel the regional arms race. This water plea-

result, those countries without vast oil revenues had to resort to external borrowing to finance their participation in the arms race. Most ended up with massive debt problems in the midst of security being nowhere yet in sight.

It is becoming increasingly recognised that the search for security will be futile in the absence of democracy. This is as true for internal as for external security. The world community has come to recognize, for example, that security for the Gulf and its oil cannot be fostered in the absence of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is not a matter of linking complicated problems. We in Jordan believe in achieving a synergy between people, resources and security. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has demonstrated the trade-offs between the different baskets of security, human cooperation and resources cooperation. A CSCE (a Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East) can give a similar opportunity to our region for peacefully resolving its complex problems. Within

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## Somali famine set to worsen — FAO

ROME (Agencies) — The death toll from famine in Somalia will continue to mount in the coming year unless a coordinated international relief effort is set up, a U.N. agency said Tuesday.

At least two million people face starvation in the Horn of Africa state devastated by drought and clan-based fighting.

"Without a concerted international relief effort, further loss of life and human suffering are inevitable," the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said.

It added Somalia has so far secured only half the food aid it will need for 1993. This year Somalia is due to get a total of 10 million tonnes of wheat, grain, and rice.

"Unless additional assistance is received, severe shortages will occur later, with a serious risk of widespread malnutrition and famine," the FAO said in a report.

Months of clan-based factional fighting accompanied by drought and famine have killed tens of thousands of people and reduced Somalia to anarchy.

Relief efforts are being hampered by gunmen who have destroyed the country after ending the rule of Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991. Shipments are often looted.

The U.N. estimates 10 to 15 per cent of aid shipments of grains like sorghum, maize, and wheat are looted before they reach refugee camps in Somalia.

High-value food like milk powder, cooking oil and wheat flour is an even more popular prize.

The United Nations has begun dropping tonnes of food from airplanes to the starving in inaccessible towns in rural Somalia.

The operation began Sunday afternoon with delivery of 14 tonnes of wheat to Tigjiglo, a village of about 2,000 people 280 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, the capital.

World Food Programme (WFP) spokeswoman Brenda Barton.

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## Khamenei accuses West of sowing discord in Gulf

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's spiritual leader accused the United States and other Western powers of attempting to create discord between Tehran and its Arab neighbours to "justify their illegitimate presence in the Persian Gulf region."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said a recent controversy over Abu Musa Island was "one of the plots of the enemies of the Islamic World to create division between the Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighbouring countries," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency said Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks at a meeting with state officials, foreign guests attending unity week celebrations and others who visited him on the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad.

Last week, after months of dispute, Iran claimed sole sovereignty over Abu Musa, which is strategically located at

the entrance to the Gulf and had also been claimed by the Emirate of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The UAE and its allies in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) strongly denounced Iran's move. The Arab League also condemned it Monday.

Tehran said it had a historic claim to the island. Officials said Washington and its allies trying to blow the dispute out of proportion to divide the region.

"They do not want us to be united with other Muslim brethren because in that case they would not be able to bully them and impose their wishes," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"The regional sheikhs should be vigilant against these conspiracies and satanic provocations and should distinguish their friends from their enemies," he said.

Iran's grab of island angers Arabs, page 2.

## Iran and Turkey sign security agreement

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin left Iran Tuesday after signing a security agreement in which each country promised to crack down on dissidents of the other, Tehran Radio said.

"We completely agreed with Iran on the struggle against terrorism and to block activities of opponents of the sovereignty of both countries," Mr. Sezgin was quoted as saying.

A joint committee was formed to follow up on actions to maintain peace along the Turkish-Iranian border and to fight drug smuggling, the radio said.

The outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has been fighting for independence for Kurds in southeastern Turkey since 1984, sometimes using bases in neighbouring Iran, Iraq and Syria.

The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, which is based in Iraq but also operates from Turkey, is the main Iranian dissident organisation. On Monday, the Mujahadeen reported that three officers of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps were killed recently in clashes with resistance forces in western Iran.

The Mujahadeen have denounced the agreement between Tehran and Ankara, saying it would "turn Turkey into a hunting ground for Iranian refugees."

There was no immediate response to the accord from the PKK.

The radio quoted Mr. Sezgin as saying that "Iran and Turkey have a number of common factors between the two. Both are bound and agree on the non-interference in each other's matters."

His Iranian counterpart, Abdullah Nouri, said at a joint news conference Iran was committed to complying with the agreement.

"Kurds who are against Turkey have nothing to do with Iran," he was quoted as saying.

"Our negotiations with Turkish officials were sincere and there was no dispute between Mr. Sezgin and me," Mr. Nouri said. He said he hoped the media of both

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraqi defence minister tours south to rally Shiite support

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majid Monday visited predominantly Shiite Muslim southern Iraq in the latest bid by a top official to rally support for the government of President Saddam Hussein, Baghdad Radio reported.

The government has stepped up its campaign to woo a population beset with the aftereffects of war and more than two years of economic sanctions.

General Majid, President Saddam's paternal first cousin and a former army sergeant, is considered one of the most powerful men in Baghdad's inner-circle.

Baghdad Radio paraphrased him as telling a gathering of tribal chiefs in the town of Al Diwaniyah that the Iraqi people would foil a "base conspiracy" by the United States, Britain and France to undermine the unity of Iraq.

He called on them to maintain vigilance and valiantly oppose enemies, the radio said. It gave no further details.

Al Diwaniyah, 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, borders the marshy southern provinces that

have been the centre of fighting between government forces and Shiite rebels since the Gulf war.

Baghdad says the allied ban on Iraqi aircraft to protect Shiites, similar to another aerial exclusion zone in the north to safeguard Kurds, is part of a conspiracy to partition the country into three cantons.

On Sunday, a top government official called for a "national political front" spanning political divisions to confront "imperialist schemes aimed at dividing Iraq."

That appeal by Sabah Yassin, head of the state-controlled television and radio and editor-in-chief of the ruling party's daily newspaper, appeared to be part of a new campaign to court government opponents.

Iraqi opposition leaders assert the recent calls for unity from top leaders such as Gen. Majid and Mr. Yassin are a sign of weakness and desperation as Baghdad struggles to deal with the sanctions and the new military challenge posed by the allied ban on flights over southern Iraq.



## U.S., Israel discuss 'compensation' for F-15 sale to Saudis

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Middle East peace talks back in full swing, the Bush administration is discussing with Israel how to maintain its edge over Arabs in light of the proposed U.S. sale of 72 F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

The talks involve such measures as limiting the firepower of the jets and storing U.S. military equipment in Israel that could be used in the event of an emergency, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney held the first meeting at the Pentagon Friday with Israeli military specialists. A second session was held by U.S. and Israeli experts at the Pentagon on Monday even as peace talks resumed at the State Department.

At this stage there are no decisions on how to implement President George Bush's promise to maintain Israel's edge over any combination of potential Arab adversaries.

The diplomatic sources, speaking only on condition they not be identified, anticipated a series of meetings with U.S. officials before agreement is reached on ways to preserve Israel's military superiority.

In Moscow, Israel and the Arab opened a three-day meeting Tuesday focusing on the reduction of arms in the Middle East.

In recent years the United States has stored weapons and other material in Israel for use by Israeli forces, as needed. Also, limits have been placed on the range and armour aboard U.S. jets sold to Saudi Arabia and on where U.S.-built AWACS reconnaissance planes can be deployed in the kingdom.

It is the third phase of the Middle East peace process that began in Madrid in October, and the second session of working groups formed by a January conference in Moscow. Tuesday's meeting was closed to journalists.

The Israeli cabinet Sunday criticised Mr. Bush's decision to complete the \$9 billion sale to a country technically at war with Israel. But the statement was mild.

It indicated Israel would not try to rally its supporters in Congress to try to block the deal. That would require two-thirds of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Bush justified his decision as one that would preserve jobs for American munitions workers. Congress, also mindful of the

approaching elections, is not likely to override him.

In the negotiations, meanwhile, Palestinian objections to Israel's construction of new homes in East Jerusalem as well as on the West Bank and Gaza slowed consideration of an Israeli proposal for limited Palestinian self-rule.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said Monday night the settlements were an attempt by Israel to "predetermine" the final status of Jerusalem and other occupied land.

But, Mr. Abdul Shafi said, "we remain committed and we are not going to despair very quickly." He said Israel's self-rule proposal would receive careful consideration.

Israeli spokesman Yossi Gal said the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian positions was wide. He said progress in Israel's talks with Syria should "serve as a catalyst" to the Palestinians to come to terms.

Brewster Grace, Middle East representative for the American Friends Service Committee, reported the Israeli government was cancelling contracts for 65,000 housing units on the West Bank and in Gaza while completing 10,000 already under construction.

Mr. Grace estimated that about 50,000 additional Jews would be allowed to settle on the occupied land.

Mr. Cheney said Monday the United States was likely to step up military cooperation with Israel in the wake of the decision to sell F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia.

Asked at a news conference about reports from Israel that the United States has offered to store equipment for two U.S. combat divisions in Israel in an effort to smooth ill will created by the fighter sale, Mr. Cheney said the United States already had an arrangement for military storage in Israel.

"We are currently involved in discussing with Israel the possibility of expanding areas of cooperation between the United States and Israeli armed forces," he said.

"I would expect that out of that process there will be decisions that we will make over the next few weeks that will provide for higher levels of effort, a greater degree of cooperation, coordination and support from the United States to the government of Israel."

Basic human rights... have become threatened possibly as never before in Egypt's contemporary history," an organisation report said.



AMID THE RUINS: An Afghan girl and her brother sit on the ruins of their home in the central Afghan town of Gulbaber. The house was destroyed by flash floods.

## Afghan city tries to restore order

JALALABAD (R) — The Afghan city of Jalalabad has banned unauthorized firearms from its streets, extending to the provinces a clean-up being enforced in the war-ravaged capital Kabul.

"We have adopted a policy that to carry guns people must have special security cards," Deputy Governor Asif told visiting U.N. officials and reporters Monday.

Jalalabad's Shura, or ruling council, was issuing 200 such cards, he said. Kabul, where 2,000 civilians died in faction fighting last month, introduced a similar drive last week.

He appealed for international aid to accelerate the process of restoring order and a working administration to this city, once the winter capital of Afghanistan's former kings, located between Kabul and Pakistan.

"People in the streets with guns are part of the security department," he said, speaking in a reception room of the Bagh-e-Kawkab, built by King Amanullah early this century and now the governor's offices.

Roaming the once-elegant gardens of the bullet-pocked Bagh-e-Kawkab were dozens of young Mujahedeen fighters, most with a Kalashnikov assault rifle slung over the shoulder.

Many, some little more than teenagers, strolled the dusty streets outside among women hidden under tent-like burkhas and elderly bearded shopkeepers.

The policy was succeeding despite a brief gunfight between two groups during celebrations for the Prophet's birthday on Friday night, Dr. Asif said.

He described the incident as a personal squabble and said it was not linked to inter-faction enmities. Residents said the gun battle, that killed four, was between two rival Mujahedeen groups.

Such clashes are not uncommon in Afghanistan, acknowledged the deputy governor, standing in for powerful Governor Haji Abdul Qadeer who had left the previous day for Germany for treatment of kidney problems.

Few gunmen are visible in Jalalabad compared with other Afghan cities, and diplomats attributed the restoration of relative law and order to Qadeer's rule.

Decision making. Ultimately, he said, "the escalation is aimed at strategic political goals, the seizing of power."

An organisation study compared the number of victims of religious violence between December 1991 and June 1992 with those for the corresponding months in 1990-1991. It found that violent deaths involving police and militants increased almost 15 per cent, 48 in 1991-1992 against 42 in the previous year.

By Associated Press.com, 60 have been killed and 88 wounded in sectarian violence this year.

The Gamaa Islamiya (Islamic Group) should stop the violence, the organisation said. At the same time, it said, government officials, television programmes and newspapers that have been openly instigating sectarian violence should stop it.

"Intensified police repression is not enough to explain the escalation of violence," the organisation's secretary-general, Bahiddin Hassan, said.

Rather, he said, increased violence reflects a change in tactics by the Gamaa Islamiya to a "strategy for armed violence (and) political assassination... aimed at affecting the process of

decision making."

Ultimately, he said, "the escalation is aimed at strategic political goals, the seizing of power."

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## Dumas and Syrian leaders discuss peace talks

PARIS (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, returning from a surprise visit to Damascus, said Tuesday a new wish for peace from Syria and Israel had given Middle East peace talks a new momentum.

"There may be in the not too distant future the prospect of peace in this region," he said in a radio interview.

Mr. Dumas' trip for talks with President Hafez Al Assad on Monday was not disclosed until he returned home. It followed a visit to Paris last week by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"You heard Mr. Peres in Paris, and Israeli leaders, call on France to play a role in (the Middle East) conflict. It's true that today new things are happening in the peace process. Everywhere that France can be useful it will try to be," Mr. Dumas told Europe 1 radio.

Mr. Dumas said he had met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharras as well as Mr. Assad. He said Damascus and the new Labour government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had shown a wish for peace during recent talks in Washington.

Mr. Rabin raised expectations last week by saying his government was willing to withdraw from some Syrian land occupied in the 1967 Middle East war in return for a total peace with Syria.

"I think there exists on the Syrian side as well as on the Israeli side a desire for peace that has not been expressed in such a way until now," Mr. Dumas said.

"These elements and calls on France to play a more important role in the peace process are the reasons I have stepped up (France's diplomatic) activity," he said.

Asked whether France would be willing to play a role in talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Dumas replied: "It's better in a case like this to speak with those who are directly concerned."

Mr. Dumas said he would travel next month to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries.

Mr. Peres made a three-day visit to Paris last week to promote closer ties between Israel's new government and the European Community (EC). He said he wanted the EC to play a role in the Middle East peace process.

The visit, during which he met President Francois Mitterrand and Mr. Dumas, was seen as a sign of warming French-Israeli relations after years of coolness under hardline former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

French officials said Mr. Dumas was mandated to mediate between Syria and Israel by EC foreign ministers at a meeting in England Sunday and would report back to them on Oct. 5.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said the trip was a French initiative and had not been discussed during Mr. Peres' visit to Paris last week.

"We don't view Mr. Dumas as an emissary for us, but we welcome France's efforts to bring the sides closer," he said.

The spokesman said Mr. Peres could not have sent any message to the Syrian leadership but "Mr. Dumas obviously can share with the Syrians his impressions of Israel's peace policy."

French officials said Mr. Dumas urged Syria to attend Middle East economic talks in Paris on Oct. 23, part of the international peace conference launched in Madrid last year.

He argued that bilateral and multilateral negotiations must advance simultaneously.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sweden urges Iraq to release Swedes

STOCKHOLM (AP) — In a sign of growing impatience, the foreign ministry Monday summoned Iraq's charge d'affaires and told him the government expects Baghdad to swiftly release three Swedish engineers. It was the third time the Iraqi diplomat Abdul Razzak Salih was called to the ministry since the three employees of telecommunications company Ericsson were captured on the border between Iraq and Kuwait on Sept. 3. Jan Stahl, one of two Swedish diplomats sent to Baghdad to negotiate their release, met the three men Monday and reported that they were well and in good spirits, the ministry said in a statement. The government's appeal followed calls for a tougher Swedish policy against the Iraqi government. Sweden did not assist militarily in the Gulf war and Iraqi leaders have said the case of the Swedes would be treated favourably. Earlier this year, two Britons were arrested by border guards, charged with espionage and sentenced to seven and 10 years in prison. In an editorial last Saturday, Sweden's major newspaper Expressen called the detention of the Swedes "a macabre show of force." It warned that "Sweden would be potential victims for terrorists all over the world" if the government was too soft with the Iraqis. Iraqi border guards reportedly detained Leif Westerberg, Christer Stromgren and Stefan Wahlborg after they had lost their way on a drive between network stations in northern Kuwait.

### Britain provides more aid for Somalia

LONDON (AP) — Britain said Tuesday it will provide an extra \$7.5 million (\$14.3 million) in aid for scorched Somalia, bringing its total contribution to the famine-stricken country to \$24 million (\$45.6 million) this year. Overseas aid Minister Lynda Chalker announced the aid after visiting Somalia over the weekend with other European Community ministers. Speaking from the Zambian capital Lusaka on Baghdad radio, she said Britain was working with the European Community and United Nations to provide "a massive infusion of food aid." They also are trying to secure the delivery of seeds so Somalis can plant fresh crops for themselves, Ms. Chalker said.

### Arab police chiefs discuss extremism

TUNIS (R) — Chiefs of police and security services in Arab countries began talks in Tunis Monday on ways of fighting extremism and terrorism. "The fight against extremists and terrorists is important because they endanger the security and the stability of the countries where they act," Tunisian Interior Minister Abdullah Kallel said in an opening speech. "It is time to protect our religions and its noble principles against extremists," he added. The meeting, chaired by General Ahmad Mohammad Bilal, head of the Saudi delegation, is the 16th of Arab police chiefs and comes three months before the meeting of the Arab Interior Ministers Council. The agenda also includes discussion of the respect of human rights by police and security officials and the role of women in the police.

### At last Cyprus gets university

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus opened its first university Monday with numbers outnumbering male students by nine to one. "The Cyprus University, the island's most ambitious educational project since independence (1960) is now a fact," said Nellie Tsouyopoulos, head of the interim governing board. Ninety per cent of the 500 students are female because of compulsory male conscription in the internationally-recognised Greek part of the island. The university offers courses in arts, social sciences, mathematics, economics and management.

### Finnish diplomat dies in horse ride accident

CAIRO (AP) — A 27-year-old Finnish diplomat died of internal bleeding after she was thrown off a horse in the desert near the Giza pyramids, police and the embassy said Monday. A police spokesman identified the woman as Inita Ans. He said she was thrown off the horse Sunday and taken to a nearby hospital where she died from internal bleeding. Her name was transliterated by the Associated Press from Arabic. An embassy spokeswoman confirmed the incident but declined to provide the diplomat's name or any other details because her family have not yet been identified. Ms. Ans was acting chief of mission at the Finnish embassy because the ambassador was away.

### Rebel Kurds kill mayor in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels kidnapped and later killed a provincial mayor and another official in southeastern Turkey, local officials said on Tuesday. The bodies of Munip Semifettinoglu, mayor of Sirvan town in Siirt province, and municipality clerk Arif Kaplan were found on early Tuesday. The two were shot dead by rebels of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) hours after being kidnapped with their driver on Monday night. It raised to 116 the death toll from a week of Kurdish unrest in the southeast where the PKK has been fighting for a separate state for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds.

### Algeria backs UAE in row with Iran

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria said Tuesday it backed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its dispute with Iran over the Gulf island of Abu Musa and appealed to Tehran to respect an agreement on joint control of the island. The Foreign Ministry, in a statement on state radio, said Algeria disapproved of measures taken by Iran to take control of Abu Musa which it has shared with the UAE since 1971. "The unilateral measures taken recently by Iran aimed at questioning the status of Abu Musa Island, in violation of that country's international engagements, are a source of preoccupation and reprobation for Algeria," the ministry said. "While affirming its solidarity with and support for the legitimate rights of the United Arab Emirates, Algeria appeals for the respect of engagements in conformity with international legality and the demands of good neighbourliness," it added. Algeria's backing for the UAE follows a cooling of relations with Iran since Tehran declared support for Muslim fundamentalists of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front. The two countries were previously close allies in the defence of international oil prices.

## Tehran's grab for Gulf island angers Arabs

By Yousef Azmeah  
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran's virtual annexation of a tiny island commanding vital Gulf shipping lanes has aroused the anger of Gulf Arab states and brought a sudden end to their brief honeymoon with Tehran.

After three years of courting the successors of Ayatollah Khomeini as pragmatists with whom they could do business, the Gulf Arabs are once again deeply suspicious of Iran after its unexplained grab for the island of Abu Musa.

The waning influence of Iranian radicals who tried to export Islamic fundamentalism across the narrow waterway under Ayatollah Khomeini brought a flowering of relations between the Gulf Arabs and non-Arab Iran and hopes of a new era of mutual interests.

But Tehran's strong-arm tactics to take control of Abu Musa, which it shared with the United Arab Emirates, reawakened age-old Arab-Iranian rivalries, diplomats in the region say.

The whole Arab World, including Tehran's close ally Syria, has turned against Iran and diplomats said its uncompromising reaction threatened an even deeper crisis.

Arab League foreign ministers condemned Iranian "aggression" on Monday, saying it "gravely endangers the region's security and stability" and vowed to raise the issue at the United Nations.

Tehran says the crisis is artificial. "This is nothing but a plot masterminded by the U.S.," Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said.

Some Western diplomats say Iran wants to build a deep-water base on Abu Musa — which lies almost midway across the Gulf close to its southwest point at the Strait of Hormuz — for submarines it wants to buy from the former Soviet republics.

Others believe Tehran may be using the island as a bargaining chip. Upset by Arab rebuffs of its demands for a

role in Gulf security arrangements, it may have thought muscle-flexing on Abu Musa would show it cannot be ignored.

But after the massive U.S.-led intervention to throw Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, Gulf Arabs are much less impressed by their big neighbour Iran than they used to be, diplomats added.

Arab newspapers along the Gulf daily liken President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's motives to the imperial aspirations of the Shah of Iran, overthrown by Ayatollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution. The Shah called the Gulf an Iranian lake.

Diplomats said the normally cautious United Arab Emirates (UAE) only raised the issue publicly after six months of fruitless behind-the-scenes contacts.

Iran would not even discuss its virtual annexation of Abu Musa, controlled jointly with the UAE for more than 20 years, they said.

Citing security reasons, Tehran expelled from the island last March foreigners who operated the UAE-government-run school, clinic and power station and says they need Iranian permits to return.

Deprived of essential services, many of the 2,000-odd islanders have moved to the mainland, diplomats said.

Mr. Rafsanjani spoke of the discovery of a sabotage ring on the island, and Tehran insists it is responsible for its security under a 1971 deal that allowed it to set up a garrison.

Security is not mentioned in the 1971 accord and diplomats said Mr. Rafsanjani's comments surprised UAE officials.

They said the only security-related incident advised by Tehran was the arrest of a pistol-carrying Dutchman in a small boat close to the island when regional waves were involved in mine-clearing operations after the end of the Gulf war.

The 1971 agreement was negotiated by Britain which then controlled the foreign relations of the seven lower Gulf sheikhdoms that became the

UAE later that year.

The agreement followed the Shah's occupation of two other islands, the Greater and Lesser Tumbs that belonged to one of the sheikhdoms. It states that neither side gave up its claim to sovereignty over Abu Musa.

The UAE maintains the 1971 agreement was signed under duress and has reasserted its claim to the Tumbs since the crisis flared.

Iranian media noted in response that if historical claims were to be pursued it could assert rights to Bahrain and parts of Iraq.

Diplomats said Tehran's actions undermined its three-year effort to build bridges with the suspicious Gulf Arabs which had flourished in response to Iran's vigorous opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Iran declared at the time territorial expansion and the acquisition of territory by force were unacceptable. Yet this is exactly what it appears to be doing now," one diplomat said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
18:00	Le Monde est a vous
19:00	News in French
19:15	AZIMUT
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Wednesday form
21:30	Chudo
22:00	News in English
22:30	Bohane
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57	Fajr
06:15	(Sunrise) Duha
12:31	Dhuhr
16:02	'Asr
18:47	Maghreb
20:05	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Assumption Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811205	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will continue to be fair and windy with northeasterly. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	13 / 30
Aqaba	23 / 35
Deir	14 / 32
Jordan Valley	21 / 36
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings:	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
AMBULANCE:	
Dr. Jassim Maraga	776149
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid	736011
Dr. Mubir Abdul Rahim	736072
Dr. Arash Al Ashhab	683989
First pharmacy	661912
Farsons pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637025
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
University pharmacy	644554
Abdoun pharmacy	821470
Berman pharmacy	623784
Mesra pharmacy	791545
Al Eiman pharmacy	739487
Mohamed pharmacy	778511
Al Ahram pharmacy	779753
Dr. Lutfi Al Shalabi	241798
Mean pharmacy	(-)
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775212
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	843291
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	602800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Chalabi Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahmut, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	644714
Shamsi Hospital	659131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Munir Hospital	667277
The Islamic, Abdali	6662757
Al-Ash, Abdali	6541646
Iskhan, Al-Mahjoun	777013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	7751126
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital	60224050
Al-Hadi Hospital	674153
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09983323
Zarqa National Hospital	09980360
Ibn Sina Hospital	09980732
Al-Hisam Modern Hospital	09990930
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
18:30	Buenos Aires (RJ)
19:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
23:15	Rome, Tunis (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
08:00	Damascus (PJ)
09:15	Beirut (PJ)
12:30	Sanaa (PJ)
13:00	Jeddah



## Zarqa committee examines level of contamination at Khirbet Al Samra

ZARQA (J.T.) — Members of the Zarqa Public Safety Committee Tuesday toured the Khirbet Al Samra Water Treatment Plant and the Sukhneh water stream area, where a recent government order banned the plantation of all vegetables.

Assistant Governor of Zarqa Ghaleb Izmeqna said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the aim of the inspection tour was to examine the extent of contamination caused by the waste water leaking out of the plant and the neighbouring factories to the water stream, which has been used to irrigate surrounding areas of farmlands.

The committee also wanted to ensure that the local farmers are strictly abiding by the National Public Safety Committee regulations which ruled that no vegetables in the area can be irrigated

by water treated at the plant, especially vegetables eaten fresh," Mr. Izmeqna said.

The Council of Ministers Saturday decided that all vegetables irrigated by water treated at Khirbet Al Samra Plant be destroyed. It entrusted the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to ensure that water from the plant be used only to irrigate fruit trees and animal fodder grown around the plant.

According to Mr. Izmeqna, the committee members examined the extent to which local farmers were adhering to the orders and also inspected water springs to ensure that they are not contaminated by waste of animals kept in the local farmlands.

During the tour, the committee followed up the application of the government's instructions concerning the destruction of the vegetables grown in the area. Agriculture Minister Fayez

Khasawneh said in a statement to the Jordan Times Monday that 98 per cent of Jordan's agricultural produce is irrigated by clean water and that the produce to be destroyed at the Khirbet Al Samra area constituted a mere 1.5 per cent of Jordan's total agricultural produce.

Saudi Arabia has banned the entry into its territory of hundreds of tonnes of Jordanian vegetable produce, claiming that recent shipments were contaminated with sewage and pesticides. Jordan denied the charges, saying tests conducted on random samples of vegetables showed they were free of contamination.

Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kassar said there was no connection between the destruction of the crops with the Saudi ban on Jordanian produce. He said that the government order was a more safety measure.



ENVOYS SWORN IN: Ambassador-designate to France Mutasem Al Bilhaili (left) and ambassador-designate to Iraq Nasouh Al Majali are sworn in in front of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday in the presence of Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki (third from right) and acting Foreign Minister and Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif (left). — Petra photo

## Donations of corneas increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thanks to an increase in donations of corneas of dead persons, the Jordan University Hospital has been able to conduct 120 cornea operations so far this year, according to Dr. Khalid Al Sharif, hospital ophthalmologist.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the number of operations was double that conducted in the same period of any previous year.

According to Dr. Sharif, the waiting list of people wishing to have their corneas replaced contains 800 persons, most of whom are young boys and girls.

Dr. Sharif appealed to the public to offer corneas of dead persons for those with cornea problems, especially the children.

According to hospital sources, within four to six hours after death the cornea of the deceased person can be safely removed without mutilation or distortion. They said donated corneas are badly needed by the Eye Bank at the hospital.

The Eye Bank, established in 1980 has been trying to secure cornea donations and has met with good success, the sources added.

## In an address to MECC meeting Queen Noor urges speedy action to end suffering of children

AMMAN (Petra) — Children of the Middle East have been the prime victims of the conflicts that have erupted in the region in the past decades, Her Majesty Queen Noor said Tuesday.

Nearly 15 million children under the age of 15 were either killed or injured as a result of these conflicts, the Queen said in an address to the "Children of War, where to?" symposium, which opened here Tuesday.

Millions of children have suffered because of wars, the emigration processes as that ensued, Queen Noor told the meeting, which is organised by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC).

In an address delivered on her behalf by Minister of Social Development Amin Mashaqbeh, Queen Noor said the conflicts in the region and the huge spending on arms have resulted in socio-economic imbalances and caused great sufferings for the people of the region.

The conflicts are causing an increase in the number of victims, mostly among children throughout a vast area of the Arab World, affecting hundreds of thousands of families as demonstrated in the Gulf war, the Queen said.

She expressed astonishment at the indifference displayed towards these tragedies by the international community and urged international humanitarian organisations to act speedily to address the situation and extend a helping hand to the distressed people.

Anglican Church Bishop Samir Qasbi, MECC president, said in an address that the MECC was directing its attention towards helping children who fell victims to the wars and conflicts that took place in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Cyprus, Ethiopia and other parts of the world.

The bishop said that while "vast funds are being spent on mass destruction weapons, very little is being spent to feed the hungry and homeless children of the world."

MECC Secretary General Gabriel Habib summed up the objectives of the seminar which, he said, is aimed at searching for means of coordinating the work of humanitarian services by religious, governmental and other organisations for the sake of helping the international community achieve the goal of "children without suffering."

Another speaker was Dr. Huda



Badran from the Cairo-based Pan-Arab National Council for Children and Mothers, who presented a paper dealing with the rights of the child in the Middle East.

The three-day seminar will tackle the fate of children who became victims of armed conflict and will attempt to define their educational, social and health requirements.

The seminar is also aimed at spreading awareness of the need to adopt and implement the UN convention on the rights of the child and the resolutions of the World Summit for Children held in New York in 1990.

## Palestinian children get a 'passport to reading'

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A "passport to reading," a new identification certificate increasingly used by Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation, is one of the most recent and successful tools used by educators in the occupied territories to increase access to information and learning amongst children who have been denied the fruits of a traditional education.

Restricted by military laws, which close schools for lengthy periods of time, educators in the occupied territories had to face the challenge of finding alternative methods of educating their home-confined or often imprisoned children.

Against the backdrop of the apparent need to find alternative ways to educate children living under conditions of house-arrest, the Tamer Institute for Community Education, founded in East Jerusalem in 1989, began its "reading campaign" in February 1992.

With the aim of helping children learn through reading on their own, the campaign includes a series of promotional materials to encourage children to read.

The creation of a "passport to reading" gave Palestinian children something that they have never had, "a non-military identification card," said Munir Fache, director of the Tamer Institute and the man who created most of the id's as related to the reading campaign.

The "passport," the size of a bank book, contains 10 pages with 10 entries to travel with books. After a child has read 10 books, he gets an upgraded, different coloured "passport" with 15 entries. Some six different coloured "passports" allow children to graduate after having read some 100 books.

Going parallel with the reading campaign is an effort to upgrade existing libraries and build new ones as well as improving writing skills among children.

As another part of the campaign, the Al Quds newspaper, the largest circulation daily in the West Bank and Gaza, has also devoted a weekly page to publishing short stories, poems and other works of literature sent in by children in the occupied territories.

The campaign has received the



One of the posters that Palestinian children receive along with the "passport to reading"

support of printers, publishers and writers who offered their services and materials free of charge.

"It was clear to us that the campaign may fail — that is what we told the sponsors," Dr. Fache, who is currently in Amman attending a Middle East Council of Churches seminar on children of war, told the Jordan Times.

The idea, however, seems to have succeeded. Thus far, 30,000 "passports" have been distributed in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. "Orders for 40,000 more 'passports' have been placed," Dr. Fache, a mathematics professor, says.

In accordance with its non-profit policy, the Tamer Institute gives two thirds of the proceeds of the passports that cost JD 300 each, to schools or other places where they are used for buying books or improving the local library.

The campaign, says Dr. Fache, is "community based" and

cannot grow without the voluntary efforts of members of the community.

Reading, writing and musical skills are among the means of self-expression that Dr. Fache hopes the reading campaign will develop. "We hope that the campaign will help children to become more knowledgeable, literate, self-sufficient in accessing and sharing information."

Through publication of children's written work in Al Quds newspaper, and through writing music to their poems and recording the lyrics, (by the Sabine musical, a group in the West Bank), Tamer hopes to give children a sense of accomplishment by allowing them to feel and see the fruits of their efforts in a relatively short time.

"It is educational, therapeutic and keeps in mind both the short-term goals of education and the long-term goals of community development, without which no society can grow and survive," says Dr. Fache.

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — It catches the attention of all. Many are tempted to do it, but stop short after second thoughts. Some take a few steps and then abandon it. A few others, fall for it, go through a bizarre experience and lose their money.

Dozens, perhaps hundreds, of Jordanian businessmen have been targeted in a scam connected by Nigerians claiming to be senior government officials and executives; of state-owned companies in the last six to nine months. At least two Jordanian businessmen are known to the Jordan Times as having actually lost a few thousands; other losers, if any, are not talking about it.

The scenario unfolds with the receipt of a letter marked "Strictly Private and Confidential" either by mail or by facsimile (although it is anyone's guess how "confidential" a facsimile message could be), introducing the writer as a Nigerian government official or a senior executive in one of the government-owned establishments in Lagos.

Inevitably, the letter, which includes a return street address and telephone numbers, begins with the following phrase, or certain variations of it but essentially meaning the same thing:

"Your esteemed particulars have been given to me by a valuable friend of mine whom I believe has had some personal dealings with you and assures me of your credibility and honesty."

The writer says that he is in control of millions of dollars — ranging anywhere between \$30 million and \$60 million — approved for transfer abroad by the Nigerian government in "contracts and purchases" related to "imports of oil-refining equipment" or something of the other.

The letter cites how the money could be funnelled into any account outside Nigeria: Sometimes the actual "beneficiary" could not be "located" or had "absconded when the military government took over." The long and short of it is that the officials in control of the funds "have decided to appropriate this money for themselves."

In any event, the recipient of the letter is propositioned to open a foreign bank account so that the funds could be transferred there pending "further instructions" minus of course 30 per cent "for the account owner," and 10 per cent for "local and international expenses."

For all technical purposes, all the "account owner" has to do after opening the account is to send a Lagos address by courier a few blank sheets of his company letterhead duly signed and stamped — "to be used to prepare backdated documents to establish your esteemed company's claim to the 'contract payment' — and sit tight awaiting the millions."

Then comes the catch. The "account owner" is informed that the money is ready for transfer to the designated account. Impressive documents attesting to this fact are

forwarded, but could he be bothered — if it is not too much of an inconvenience of course — to take a very short trip to Nigeria to "complete certain insignificant routine" formalities and that an entry visa is awaiting him at Lagos airport.

Well, in the cases of two Jordanian businessmen, who, for obvious reasons, prefer not to be named, the answer was no, they could not travel to Nigeria. Then one of them was asked whether he could "remit" \$5,000 (it was \$3,500 in the other case) by tele-transfer to the Lagos address to pay for a "certain stamp fee, which, according to government regulations, has to be paid in foreign currency from abroad."

Both of them paid, in January this year, and heard nothing thereafter from Lagos.

By all accounts, they were lucky to have lost only a few thousands. Reports in the Western press have spoken of European and American businessmen taking up the invitation to travel to Nigeria and losing up to \$25,000 before the final curtains were drawn in the drama.

There was no way of ascertaining whether any Jordanian actually travelled to Lagos to "complete the deal," the Jordan Times did not come across any, and if there were some indeed then they did not find it fit to confide in the newspaper.

The turning point in the scam, according to most reports, comes when the invitation to Lagos is issued. It is an even chance that those who

have come this far would decide that they might as well go all the way. They end up at Lagos airport, "met" by impressive-looking men in military uniforms with a red-carpet treatment, escorted to a hotel — without going through immigration clearance — and advised to take some "rest" before "getting into business." In the meantime could be part with his passport for "visa formalities."

The next thing he knows, the businessman is threatened with being charged for "collusion with bribery," "conspiracy to cheat the Nigerian government," or even "entering the country without a visa." The threats are substantiated with "letters" and "documents" (remember sending the blank, signed and stamped company letterheads?)

He is advised to part with whatever money and valuables he has on him so that he could leave the country "without problems" or face up to 20 years in jail. If the money carried in person is not enough to meet the "minimum requirements," then he had better get it transferred from abroad. The options are indeed limited, particularly when one is restricted to the hotel room minus his passport and kept under guard.

Western newspapers have reported a dozen cases of people paying up to get out and at least one case of an enterprising American who overpowered his guard and escaped. Some victims had to wait up to a week before their families or businesses transferred the

"ransom" to Lagos to secure their departure.

Indeed, as a rule, no-one is allowed to stay back in Lagos after paying up. Everyone is taken directly to the airport and put aboard flights as "undesirables."

The government of Nigeria has released a series of advertisements in the Western press disclaiming any official link with the scam and advising businessmen to be alert.

But many believe that some of the top officials, particularly in the security forces, are directly involved in the scheme; some of the scenarios, particularly the airport reception and the works, could not be enacted without official connivance. But no names have been mentioned yet.

Many victims have lodged complaints with Nigerian diplomatic missions abroad, but have heard nothing of any serious action despite repeated reminders and legal notices.

Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials and diplomats said they had read about the scam but had not received any complaint, formal or informal, from any Jordanian in this regard.

"If indeed anyone had been taken on a ride to Lagos, then he is not talking to us," said one official.

In the meantime, Jordanian businessmen, from Irbid to Aqaba, continue to receive letters and facsimile messages marked "Strictly Private and Confidential."

"Your esteemed particulars have been given to us ....."

## Seminar to discuss maritime insurance

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on maritime insurance will open in Amman on Sept. 21 with the participation of many insurance companies and maritime carriers in the Arab World.

The seminar, organised by the Jordanian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, and the Jordanian Insurance Companies Federation, is to tackle a number of studies on maritime insurance such as legal matters during war and peace time, wartime risks and the effect of conflict on the transportation of goods and other relevant topics, according to Mr. Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Asfour, who is also chairman of the Jordanian National Committee, said that the "seminar comes at a time when the Arab World is in most need of it in view of the sanctions resulting from the Gulf war."

The seminar is aimed at acquainting merchants, importers and maritime carriers with topics related to maritime insurance.

## WHAT'S GOING ON Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ghassan Gha'eb and Walid Rashid at Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramallah, Nabila Hilmi and Dodi Taban at the National Gallery, Jabal Luw'bidah Park.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at Al Husna Vocational School in Karak.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Horizon" by Artist Qasem Al Samir and Najah Al Rabi' at the Housing Bank Gallery.

## ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on September 19, and will last for 16 weeks.

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## Future through signals

THE FAINT signals of defiance that the Arab League emitted Monday, following its regular half-yearly meeting, are signs that the Arab body is not dead and could still be resurrected. The League's decision to throw its weight behind the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the latter's dispute with Iran over the occupation of the Abu Musa Island is an opportunity to revive the pre-Gulf war Arab order that provided a minimum of coordination and cooperation among Arabs. It is also important to bear that the League, which had almost collapsed in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, call anew for the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Despite the positive signs, however, the stark failure of the League remains that its old mandate and structure have become too archaic to spare the Arabs the division they suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Judging from its performance in the last four decades and from its successive bids to create a minimum level of Arab consensus, the League clearly requires a new charter. That charter must not be based on old dreams of Arab unity and the Arab states' total commitment to it. The new charter would have to reflect the current situation of Arab politics, boundaries and probably even diverse interests. The charter must take into consideration the new realities created by the fall of the communist bloc and the shape of the so-called new world order. The instability and interethnic fighting in Somalia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and elsewhere are all proof that the pre-Gulf war Arab order is now defunct. With this in mind, the League's secretary general and his assistants must work harder on formulating such charter to ensure that when Arab interests clash a mechanism should exist where it can be used to prevent repetition of old crises and reasons that might precipitate them. The League could have its best start by deciding to set aside claims of the past and emphasise instead the fact that the way towards real unity and progress lies through democracy. For without democracy unity will be devoid of both meaning and content.

We recognise naturally that to reach this stage Arabs must first regain the solidarity they had in the 1980s. But to achieve that under the present circumstances can only be done through an Arab summit. It would be at that "reconciliation" summit that the Arab leadership should define the framework for a new Arab order and a new Arab charter.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday commented on the situation in the Gulf in the wake of Iran's occupation of Abu Musa Island, noting that neither the United States, the ally of the Gulf states, nor the Arab League did anything to protect Arab interests there. The paper said that the Arab League has proved futile and, if anything, it proved to be a tool for doing harm to the Arab Nation and not to serve its causes. The statement issued by the Arab League about Iran's occupation was pathetic as the Arab foreign ministers meeting at the Arab League headquarters sufficed themselves with a timid statement urging Iran to stop its violations of Arab sovereignty, said the daily. The paper said that what is more, the Arab foreign ministers' statement came not before but after Tehran announced that it has rights in parts of Iraq and in Bahrain. The Arab League's attitude in the Abu Musa case reminds the Arabs of the league's stand at the time of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait when it refrained from even issuing a statement urging Iraq to pull out its forces from the emirate, the paper added. The Arab League's position in 1990 brought about catastrophic consequences to all the Arab countries, and this time, in the case of the Abu Musa Island, it can only bring more of the same, said the paper. It said that while the Arab states realise the great sufferings of the Iraqi people under the sanctions, they are doing nothing to save the innocent Iraqi lives and are showing cowardice in the face of Iran which is not being checked by any one and not even by the Western allies of the Arabs because these allies have now secured the oil Gulf states funds and left the Arabs to fend for themselves.

WITH THE resumption of the bilateral talks at the peace conference in Washington, the Arabs ought to be careful and on their guard against further Israeli ploys and manoeuvres, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Tuesday. Everyone believes that the current session in Washington assumes a great importance and could be crucial for a peace settlement because the U.S. administration, which sponsors the talks, is intent on achieving something in order to boost President Bush's stand in the fight for the White House, said the daily. It said that the Arab negotiators at the multilateral talks in Washington and Moscow should also be on their guard because Israel will be trying to divert the talks from substance to secondary issues, away from anything related to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. In their daily statements, the Israeli officials have been repeating their ideas of reaching a separate peace agreement with Syria over the Golan, regardless of the other important issues and away from the Palestinian problem, said the daily. It said that the Israeli prime minister has openly declared Israel's desire to conclude a peace treaty with Syria in exchange for a partial withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. The Arabs, in general, and the Syrians, in particular, have so far rejected such overtures from Israel, said the paper, the Arab masses are now looking to the negotiators to go by their words and to abide by the united stand taken by their foreign ministers at the recent Damascus meeting to discuss the peace process.

## NAM message: Under the shadow of the all powerful

By G.H. Jansen

IN AN earlier article (June 25, 1992) it was suggested that the tenth summit meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had to meet the most serious challenge it had ever faced — the threat posed by the hegemony of the One World Power, the U.S. Did the Jakarta meeting give an adequate response to this challenge?

It did not, or only very inadequately and partially. The essence of the summit's deliberations is given in what was called "the Jakarta Message" — A call for collective action and the democratisation of international relations. And there was welcome modesty in that title; similar documents from earlier summits were called "declarations" or "proclamations." But the summit immediately has reverted to verbosity. Despite calls for less wordiness in NAM documents, the final communiqué runs to 100 pages.

The very subtleties of the Message indicate that NAM is very well aware of the threat of hegemony because "democratisation of international relations" is just code language for "all countries are equal" and no one country is superior to any other.

Fine words, but the hard fact remains that while "all countries are equal," in Orwellian phraseology "some countries are more equal than others." And indeed there are references in the message to that fact and to the danger it represents to countries

like those in NAM. But all such references are oblique and couched in general terms. One delegate at Jakarta said that while everyone knew who and what was being talked about, it was as if the words "the United States" were taboo and never to be uttered.

Only one country broke the taboo and openly attacked the U.S. Iraq, which is after all virtually in a state of war with the U.S., so no other country followed its example.

It is worthwhile quoting in full the generalities in which NAM spoke of the challenge facing it: "We must ensure respect for the sovereignty of nations and the strict adherence to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, which should not be diluted or abridged under any pretext." And what those "pretexts" might be were named in the section of the Message on human rights: "No country, however, should use its power to dictate its concept of democracy and human rights or to impose conditionalities on others." Also referring to NAM participation in the second world conference on human rights in June 1993, it said that NAM should try and ensure that human rights be addressed "on the basis of universality, impartiality and non-selectivity." One has to know that the key word is "non-selectivity," meaning that human rights is not to be invoked as a convenient excuse for great power, or U.S., "humanitarian intervention." As is now under way in Kurdistan in northern Iraq and potentially in a Shi'ite in southern Iraq. (The Indian prime

minister dared to be a bit more explicit when he said: "Many among us face a predicament when human rights are emphatically urged only for practitioners of terrorism or secessionism, while governments dealing with this menace are accused of violation of human rights. This blatant distortion cannot be countenanced." Of course, "terrorism" and "secessionism" for Indians, refers to Sikh and Kashmiri militants and it could also refer to Iraqi Kurds and Shi'ites and to separatist minorities in any NAM country).

Furthermore, when talking of international law the Message says: "There is no place for the unilateral use of force and for claims to exercise extraterritorial rights by states." A reference, perhaps, to the "right" of humanitarian intervention and certainly to the "right" given to the U.S. government by a U.S. court of law to kidnap foreign nationals and bring them for trial to the U.S.

And these few coded references were the sum and substance to NAM response to the challenge of U.S. hegemony. Inadequate, to say the least, and not least because, fairly plainly, the challenge and the menace is acknowledged to be there — but had to remain unnamed.

That silence by the NAM summit about what was on every body's mind was a very considerable diplomatic triumph for the U.S. — in fact, a triumph for hegemony. And it was brought about by the friends, protectors and clients of America, within

NAM, led by the host country, Indonesia, which presided over the summit. President Suharto in his opening speech stated that the order of the day was understanding and cooperation, especially between North and South. It would have been most impolite to differ and to say that that was not the main issue. Because if the 108 members of NAM are not really independent due to U.S. hegemony, of what importance are their views on any subject under the sun?

Otherwise, the Jakarta Message talks of North-South dialogue and economic cooperation, of South-South cooperation, of disarmament and apartheid, of economic development and the environment, and the rights of women and the rights of children. Sweetness and light which is all well and good but in what sort of world is this "happy family" scene to be played out? A world in which the power structure is totally unbalanced, with one country getting its way, or believing that it should be getting its way, and with countries like those in NAM accepting that it should, thus producing a situation of domination by one world power? NAM's attempts to try and ignore this reality or to pretend that it is not really there recall to mind the words of the English poet Thomas Gray in his "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College": "Alas, regardless of their doom the little victims play."

And further on in the ode are two very well-known lines which are extremely apposite to NAM's situation: "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

## U.N. General Assembly meeting with new members, new problems

By Andrew Katell  
 The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. General Assembly session will open this week in a new world order that is drawing some countries closer but tearing others apart.

Thanks largely to the peaceful breakup of the Soviet Union, the 47th General Assembly, opening a three-month session Tuesday, will welcome 20 new members. It convenes with the ideological battles of the cold war over and the superpowers largely cooperating. But people are dying in the breakup of Yugoslavia and the factional squabbling in Somalia.

The General Assembly will have to discuss not only such international trouble spots themselves but also the tools the United Nations uses to handle them. Boutros Ghali, the veteran Egyptian diplomat who will be attending for the first time as secretary-general, has welcomed the "renaissance for the United Nations" after the cold war but noted the world body faces "a crisis of too much credibility."

Member states now increasingly expect and request action from the United Nations. The list of responsibilities placed upon the organization grows larger every day," Dr. Ghali told a conference at the United Nations last week.

He offered several proposals for post cold war strategies in a report, "agenda for peace," released in June. That report is expected to be a recurring theme when some 40 world leaders begin taking the floor for speeches to the General Assembly — the U.N.'s principal debating forum — next Monday, Sept. 21.

Dr. Ghali already has been working intensively to sharpen the United Nations' tools.

From Tashkent to San Salvador, the United Nations has been dispatching fact-finding missions, special envoys, observer teams, peacekeepers and humanitarian relief workers.

As the General Assembly session opens, about 44,000 U.N. peacekeepers are stationed worldwide, at a cost of \$3 billion a year. Requests for more keep pouring in. One recent example was Armenia's plea for peacekeepers to help stop fighting with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

To enable the U.N. Security Council to respond more quickly to such requests, the General Assembly is expected to approve Dr. Ghali's recommendation for a revolving peacekeeping reserve fund. That would eliminate the immediate need to arrange financing when the Security Council authorizes a peacekeeping force.

Dr. Ghali suggested the fund contain \$50 million, but the General Assembly may not approve that much.

The assembly is also not expected to approve the secretary-general's request for a standing rapid-deployment U.N. military force with heightened powers to intervene for "peace-enforcement."

St. David Hannay, Britain's ambassador, told the Associated Press such a force would "tie up resources" could not be easily tailored to meet the needs of specific conflicts and might not give the countries contributing troops enough control over their mandate.

In other General Assembly business:

— The assembly may try to deprive what remains of the Yugoslav state — Serbia and Montenegro — of its U.N. membership. The deputy U.S. ambassador, Thomas Watson, has called their claim to have inherited Yugoslavia's U.N. seat a "charade." But the General Assembly has never before kicked out a member, and doing so may violate the U.N. Charter. Still, Mr. Hannay predicts "Yugoslavia will not go unchallenged in one way or another in the new session."

— The assembly is expected to endorse a treaty on chemical weapons which 39 nations approved earlier this month in Geneva, as well as the results of the earth summit held in June in Brazil. The assembly is to set up a permanent commission to make sure countries live up to their pledges to protect the environment.

— Some speakers are expected to call for restructuring the powerful Security Council. Germany and Japan want seats on the increasingly active council. Some Non-Aligned countries — comprising the biggest bloc in the general assembly — want the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China stripped of their veto power. But some diplomats worry enlarging the council would make it unwieldy and wonder which criteria would be used to choose members.

— The 179 members — up from 159 last year — are expected to elect Stoyan Ganev, Bulgaria's foreign minister, as president of the assembly. The new members — whose addition prompted the construction of a new row of seats in the General Assembly chamber — are Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North and South Korea, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and San Marino.

## LETTERS

### Political dribbling

To the Editor:

POLITICS and Arab differences have hit the Arab scene once again, this time in sports. The last pan-Arab games were held seven years ago in Morocco, when they should have been held every four years.

Perhaps they were cancelled in 1989 for political reasons. So why the Arab countries agreed to the seventh pan-Arab games at this time is not understandable when fair play and sportsmanship are still desperately lacking among the Arabs. With the way things have been going at the games in Syria, maybe they should have been cancelled this time as well.

The manner in which the two Egyptians refereed the basketball finals on Monday, between Jordan and Syria, was truly repulsive. It did not take a professional basketball player to see how unjust the referees were. Right from the beginning of the game it was obvious that they wanted to see the Jordan team, who won the gold medal in 1985, lose. We do not want to sound paranoid, but the way they picked on Nasser Bushnaq, one of the best players on the Jordanian team, was truly in bad taste; it was clear they wanted him out of the game.

Politics was evident in the way the team was bullied by the referees. The players would not defend their basket for fear that they would be accused of fouling. The psychological warfare against our team demoralized the players from the very beginning and affected their performance.

The fouls difference was tremendous: Jordan 27, Syria 11. Even the Jordanian TV commentator, who was constantly trying to be objective, even pan-Arabist, could not but criticise the unjust performance of the referees. Besides, since when do two persons from the same country referee a game?

The Jordanian delegation to the pan-Arab games had expected unfair treatment and objected to the federation for the choice of referees for the finals. But alas, politics, once again, was dominating the Arab scene.

One more thing. If these are "pan-Arab" games, what kind of pan-Arabism is there when the Iraqi sports delegation is kept on the Jordanian-Syrian border for three days waiting to enter the country, and then is banned altogether from participating in the games?

The Iraqis were invited by the Arab League to these games, but Syria, at odds with the Iraqi regime, took it upon itself to ban Iraqi athletes from competing in these games. Not only that, but while all the flags of the Arab League were raised at the games — including those of countries which did not participate — the Iraqi flag was missing.

How could Arabs preach nationalism when it is not practised even in sports, let alone on the political level? Where in the Arab World does sportsmanship exist, when politicised conspiracies are being cooked up against this or that country for its political stand? It is time we stop lying to each other, and to ourselves, and admit that pan-Arabism does not exist at all.

Sama Attiyeh,  
 Amman

## Syria, Israel want to narrow gaps

(Continued from page 1)

appeared to be a fruitless session on Monday, in which Palestinian reiterated their long-standing demand for a total freeze of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although an exchange of signal between Israel and Syria last week appeared to ignore the Palestinian track, Palestinians had expected Israel to reply to proposals for a framework agreement on an interim self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian negotiators said they heard no new ideas from the Israelis and delegation head Haider Abdul Shafi told reporters after the meeting they heard his team was still disappointed by continued Israeli settlement building in the occupied territories.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali, who has been discussing an agenda for the talks for more than two weeks, said: "We feel still there is nothing to report of any significance

towards progress on the agenda."

Jordanian spokesman Marwan Musser reported that Jordan's bilateral talks with Israel had resumed on a low-key note. Negotiators on both sides asked questions and demanded clarifications, but there was otherwise "nothing new to report."

He said that the participants would continue to try to set an agenda for Israeli-Jordanian talks "that will allow for serious discussion of the issues."

Rejecting suggestions that there is an impasse in the Israeli-Jordanian track, Dr. Musser noted that issues were being tackled "head on," and that if progress is slow, it is only because such negotiations will tend to be difficult. If finding a proper agenda takes more time, that expected, Dr. Musser said, "so be it."

He added that the Israeli negotiators had emphasised their commitment to the Jordanian talks. Yossi Gal told reporters that Israel had offered Jordan "new language and terminology to

facilitate political issues," as well as suggestions on "a number of agenda issues."

He remarked that talks with the Lebanese delegation were characterised by "serious, open and cordial discussions between the parties on ways to move forward in the negotiation."

U.S. President George Bush said Monday the prospects of achieving peace in the Middle East "are brighter than ever before," but much still remains to be done.

In a letter of greetings to the National Association of Arab Americans on its 20th anniversary, the president pointed out that "during the past year, we have witnessed an unprecedented degree of cooperation among the peoples of this region, as Arab and Israeli leaders have signalled their willingness to pursue direct negotiations aimed at securing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

For the first time in recent history, the Palestinians themselves are participating in a pro-

cess to determine their own future and that of the region.

"While such progress is heartening, much remains to be done. The success of negotiations ultimately depends on the ability of the peoples involved to put aside past differences and to join in bringing about a new, peaceful order in the Middle East — an order that can enhance everyone's well-being," he said.

"The United States remains committed to serving as a catalyst and a driving force for peace. We continue to believe that any viable settlement must involve an exchange of land for peace, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and must make provisions for the security of Israel and all people in the region, as well as the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. Our goal is real peace — codified by treaties and given life by trade, tourism, and simply human contact."

## Assad backs European role

(Continued from page 1)

ned more substantive talks in the afternoon.

Palestinian delegates who arrived last weekend were not allowed to participate, according to a Western diplomat who attended Tuesday's session.

The Palestinians also were kept out of the first arms control meeting in Washington when Israel and the United States argued that Palestinians do not represent a sovereign entity with armed forces.

Jordan's chief negotiator, Abdullah Toukan, said before leaving Amman Sunday that Jordan

will propose that all countries in the region sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The arms control and regional security working group will meet until Sept. 17 in Moscow, and the water resources working group will meet until Sept. 16 at the State Department.

The other multilateral meetings scheduled are: The environment working group, Oct. 26-27 in the Hague; the economic development working group, Oct. 29-30 in Paris; the refugee working group Nov. 11-12 in Ottawa.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said some 36 delegations were expected at the water group meeting.

## 'Better life'

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian in the occupied West Bank Monday.

The army said soldiers identified two "suspicious" Palestinians, one of them armed, and called on them to stop. When they ignored the warnings, the soldiers opened fire, killing Mohammad Said Saadeh, 20, of Jenin refugee camp.

The second Palestinian escaped, the army said.

In another development, police said a Palestinian employee at a West Jerusalem grocery store has confessed to poisoning food in an attempt to injure Israeli shoppers.

The worker, 21-year-old Rashid Zahada of Arab East Jerusalem, sprinkled rat poison on ground meat and injected bug spray into watermelons, vegetables and chicken soup mix at the small grocery in the Kiryat Hayovel neighbourhood, police said.

In another incident, Zahada spiked his boss' coffee with poison. But police said no-one was hurt apparently because only small amounts of poison were used.

After Zahada's arrest Aug. 28, police issued an announcement asking neighbourhood residents to return food to the store. But Zahada's arrest was only disclosed Tuesday after police completed an investigation.



## Regent calls for 'energy charter'

(Continued from page 1)

such a context, we have called for an Energy Charter in the Middle East paralleling the Energy Charter being evolved within Europe. Security of supply, safeguarding the environment as well as efficiency of production represent the pillars of the proposed European Charter. Such principles should equally apply to our region in the Middle East.

The developing countries cannot divert the necessary funds and capabilities into a coherent approach to their energy challenges in the absence of democracy and security. Similarly a new code of conduct, or a new political will, is needed on the part of the industrial countries if a more promising future is to be achieved in the field of energy for mankind. In order to illustrate what I mean, please permit me, as a non-specialist, to venture into some technicalities.

Energy, in one form or another, has played a very important role in the development of our civilization. The history of energy may be divided into two great periods: the age of total dependence on animate energy and the age of inanimate energy derived primarily from fossil fuels. Inevitably a third stage will follow during which we may be released from total dependence on finite resources of mineral fuels available to us. This stage is expected to lead to such developments as solar energy, nuclear fusion and other alternative forms. However, progress towards the construction of large scale plants which use alternative forms of energy is very slow.

When we consider the conservation of the existing energy resources it must be acknowledged that, since the dawn of the industrial revolution, scientists and engineers have been deeply concerned about the depletion of the world's energy reserves and the need for conservation.

To cite a few examples, Henry Adams, an American visionary, was preoccupied around 1890 with the problem of the finite availability of energy resources and the limitations this may impose on the progress of human societies. Dr. A. Stodola, Professor at the Zurich Polytechnic, expressed his concern about energy in his book, "Steam and Gas Turbines," first published in 1904. He wrote that the world's supply of fuel was limited and was warning us more and more earnestly to handle what was still left as economically as possible.

Although great strides have been made, particularly since the oil crises of the seventies in the fields of energy conservation as well as environmental protection, these problems still continue to haunt the scientists and the engineers of today. It is understandable that demands for equitable distribution of our traditional energy reserves, i.e. mineral fuels, will continue to grow as pressures for better living standards build up across the globe. This is because energy, consumption per capita is widely regarded as a very good measure of living standards. It should be noted, however, that the average standard of living of a nation depends on the ability of its people to use energy most effectively and not necessarily on the possession of resources of energy.

In this context it should be noted that as a result of the recent changes in the political and social framework of the old Eastern Bloc countries, the people of those countries are able to travel more freely than before to the industrial countries of the West. Consequently they will see the immense disparity between their living standards and those enjoyed by the citizens of the industrial countries. They will work for and soon demand better living standards. It may be difficult to meet their demands without embarking on construction and serious development of power plant running on alternative forms of energy to generate electricity.

The same arguments can be used also to understand the impact of the growing energy needs of countries in the Far East and emerging nations in Asia, Africa and South America; the former through embarking on major industrialization programmes and the latter which need energy, in many cases, to satisfy their bare necessities such as running their mechanized agricultural systems.

In order to deal with the energy problem three steps are urgently needed. They are:

1. To improve the energy efficiency of thermal power plant which utilize fuel oils, gas, coal or coal products;
2. To improve the efficiency of all energy consuming systems such as heating, ventilating and air conditioning plant, domestic appliances, transport, etc.
3. To develop technologies to construct economical and reliable large scale power generating systems which will operate on solar or other alternative forms of energy.

In conventional thermal power plants two-thirds of the energy is thrown away in the form of huge warm water in cooling towers or exhaust gas. Thus your efforts towards advancing technologies in co-generation and advanced thermodynamic cycles can be of great benefit.

It would be pertinent to mention that although the importance of energy conservation is widely recognized, acceptance of schemes which may improve energy utilization efficiency from 30% to 75% or 80% is very slow. The reasons for the general lack of enthusiasm for energy conservation and alternative energy schemes are difficult for some to understand. However, other factors emerge when this is related to energy as one of the structures of the international political economy that is manipulated by the more powerful states at the expense of the weak. The effect of international political forces on the real price of oil is a factor that should be kept in mind. The lack of enthusiasm for energy conservation and alternative energy schemes are not unrelated to the price of oil. It is still not high enough for the industrial nations to consider such schemes as financially viable. Poor nations cannot pursue energy conservation or alternative

energy schemes because they lack financial resources and the necessary technological skills.

Reducing energy consumption either by improving the efficiency of energy consuming systems or by economizing through reduction of wastage could make a significant contribution to energy conservation. Although reliable data are not readily available, some estimates show that energy consumed in providing such services as lighting heating, cooling, air conditioning, etc., of commercial and domestic buildings can be as high as 40% of the total national output of energy.

Implementation of schemes which may reduce energy consumed for heating, cooling or air conditioning of buildings is often hindered by such factors as the pay back period. For example, it is well known that a properly designed heat pump can deliver heat three times the amount of electrical energy consumed. Furthermore they can be used for heating as well as cooling. In spite of its superior performance compared with alternative heating systems, the heat pump is not widely accepted for space heating.

Since energy is irreplaceable, such factors as the pay back period are not a satisfactory yardstick for assessing the viability of energy conservation or renewable energy scheme. The finite volume of the global reserves of fuel oils and the ecological considerations must be included in the formula.

The sun is an essentially inexhaustible source of energy. However, as far

as the recovery of this energy is concerned, there are two main drawbacks:

1. Because of the low temperatures achieved by solar equipment, maximum of the order of 50 degrees C, the resulting thermal energy is of low grade;
2. Solar energy is available only during the day time and even then the intensity of radiation is not constant.

For these reasons solar energy can be used for electrical power generation only to supplement the output of conventional thermal plant. On small scale there are many applications which appear in the congress programme.

Perhaps the most logical use of solar energy is for producing hydrogen. The explosive nature of hydrogen and its very low density are the two main stumbling blocks which continue to hinder progress in adopting hydrogen as the fuel for the future. I could cite only six papers dealing with hydrogen in the technical programme of this congress. It may be worth mentioning that high pressure gas pipelines or nuclear power plants are perhaps equally dangerous but we have learnt to live with them.

I would like to say a few words about Jordan's interest in renewable or alternative sources of energy. As a NOPEC country, we have to rely on imports for our energy needs. Therefore the exploitation of alternative sources of energy is very important for Jordan. Despite technical challenges, Jordan's objectives in the field of Renewable Energy is to acquire additional knowledge, develop and adapt this knowledge to our needs and utilize it to design, manufacture,

operate and maintain Renewable Energy equipment and systems using local capabilities. The research, development and demonstration activities in this field conducted by the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan aim at paving the way for the commercialization of solar and wind energy technologies particularly in the areas of solar water heaters and water pumping by using photovoltaics and wind energy. Furthermore the experiments of Jordan's Electricity Authority with wind energy should also be mentioned. The coming few years may witness the rise of wind farms in highlands, and large scale applications for water pumping in the semi-arid zones of the eastern parts of Jordan. Our efforts in these fields, which are supported by Germany, continue despite the fact that so far they meet only a small portion of our total energy needs. The country organized an international renewable energy conference in Amman in June this year.

I would like to conclude my remarks by complimenting the organizers of this congress for putting together a superb programme. The importance of the theme and the timeliness of the congress is indicated by the extent of the international participation. The ultimate success of the energy conservation and renewable schemes will depend on technological achievements and on political considerations such as the backing given by national legislatures. We hope that national governments will give their full backing to energy conservation and renewable energy schemes.

Energy is becoming an increasingly important structure within the international political economy. As we look towards the 21st century, current patterns of influencing this structure by the more powerful at the expense of the weak, do not bode well for global security and prosperity. A new code of conduct, A Global Energy Charter, is needed if a more humane, just and sustainable world order is to be realized. Your deliberations in this congress can provide an important contribution towards that objective.

## Iran, Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

countries would play "a healthy role."

Mr. Serzgin denied reports that Turkey's National Security Council had said it would take military action against countries that allowed Kurdish groups to be active in their territory.

Mr. Serzgin's four-day visit to Tehran was aimed at smoothing recently strained relations between the two countries.

Iran and Turkey are competing for influence among the former Soviet republics that are largely Muslim.

On Monday, Mr. Serzgin told President Hashemi Rafsanjani that Turkish Prime Minister Soleyman Demirel wants Iranian

cooperation in working for peace and security in the region.

Just before Mr. Serzgin's trip to Tehran a Turkish court ruled on the final release of a Greek Cypriot freighter that had been held for almost a year carrying an undeclared cargo of East bloc weapons bound for Iran.

The seizure of the ship had also soured relations.

# SSC



# النظم الفنية

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## Somali famine

(Continued from page 1)

Another airstop of the same amount to Tigiejo was made Monday, said Ms. Barton.

The food drops are part of an effort to arrest the flow of thousands of people who have leaving their homes to go to larger towns where food began arriving in August, she said.

The WFP is using C-130 cargo planes chartered from the Miami, Florida-based Southern Air Transport, said Ms. Barton.

Much of Somalia is inaccessible either because local dirt airstrips are unable to handle planes large enough to carry several tonnes of food and supplies, or because of inadequate roads.

On Monday, the first armed U.N. soldiers arrived in Mogadishu, the vanguard of a 500-strong force to guard against the theft of relief shipments, a major problem.

The 40 Pakistani troops arrived amid fears that their presence could trigger new violence in a land already devastated by civil war and inter-clan fighting.

The U.N. Security Council has authorised sending 3,500 armed troops to Somalia, but only the initial force of 500 Pakistanis have been approved by the country's main warlord, General Mohammed Farrah Aideed.

Armed only with light weapons, teargas and rubber bullets, they do not have an official peace-making role, but analysts fear the U.N. will get drawn in to solving the political crisis.

"We have accepted 500, that is enough and if we need more we can discuss that later," said Abdulkarim Ahmad Ali, top aide of Gen. Aideed.

Political analysts say Aideed does not want foreign troops on Somali soil because he feels it would undermine his powerbase. The warlord's supporters marched in Mogadishu's streets on Monday to protest against foreign troops, but their arrival passed off smoothly.

Gen. Aideed's rival Ali Mahdi Mohammad approves of the troops and wants them increased to 10,000.

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## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar for International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 14/9/92	SINGAPORE CLOSE Date: 15/9/92
Sterling Pound	1.8945	1.9050
Deutsche Mark	1.4822	1.4750
Swiss Franc	1.3157	1.3078
French Franc	5.0265	4.9955**
Japanese Yen	124.20	125.84
European Currency Unit	1.3615	1.3703**

\* USD Per STG  
\*\* European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 15/9/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.06	5.00	5.12	5.18
Sterling Pound	10.12	10.12	10.25	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.25	9.18	9.12	8.95
Swiss Franc	7.25	7.18	7.18	7.06
French Franc	9.87	9.93	9.87	9.81
Japanese Yen	4.18	3.81	3.68	3.62
European Currency Unit	10.87	10.87	10.87	10.37

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	Date: 15/9/92
Gold	546.25
Silver	3.79

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 15/9/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.674	0.676
Sterling Pound	1.2817	1.2875
Deutsche Mark	0.4558	0.4581
Swiss Franc	0.5158	0.5163
French Franc	0.1345	0.1362
Japanese Yen	0.5430	0.5457
Dutch Guilder	0.4047	0.4067
Swedish Krona	0.1244	0.1250
Italian Lira	0.0574	0.0577
Belgian Franc	0.02213	0.02224

Other Currencies Date: 15/9/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Libanese Lira	1.7580	1.7770
Lebanese Lira*	0.0595	0.05895
Saudi Riyal	0.1795	0.1801
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3050
Qatari Riyal	0.1827	0.1837
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7190	1.7305
UAE Dirham	0.1827	0.1837
Greek Drachmas	0.3535	0.3635
Cypriot Pound	1.5750	1.5950

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/9/92	Close	14/9/92	Close
All-Share	145.63		145.97	
Banking Sector	107.58		107.99	
Insurance Sector	150.35		150.64	
Industry Sector	194.79		194.79	
Services Sector	201.17		203.16	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.9000/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2124/29	Canadian dollar
	1.4595/700	Deutsche marks
	1.6560/80	Dutch guilders
	1.3015/25	Swiss francs
	30.31/35	Belgian francs
	4.9940/90	French francs
	1175/1178	Italian lire
	123.83/88	Japanese yen
	5.3925/4025	Swedish crowns
	5.8220/320	Norwegian crowns
	5.6625/725	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$345.70/346.205	

## JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

JORDAN STOCK EXCHANGE AMMAN - JERUSALEM  
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 15/09/1992

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1,058	3.050	3.050
JORDAN KUNAAT BANK	8,684	2.270	2.270
THE JORDAN BANK	17,945	2.310	2.310
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	5,054	2.500	2.460
JORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,335	2.290	2.300
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	25,904	3.450	3.400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	21,000	3.000	3.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/O.I.	39,313	1.260	1.260
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	129,778	2.040	2.110
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	15,942	3.290	3.300
BUSINESS BANK	863	2.100	2.170
WEST JORDAN DEVELOPMENT FOR HOUSING	10,852	4.690	4.650
CALUD AMMAN BANK	8,526	17.000	17.100
ARAB BANK	57,750	115.500	115.500
AL-RIVER AL-ARABI INSURANCE	1,400	3.200	3.200
JORDAN INSURANCE	3,416	2.700	2.700
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	28,360	2.850	2.870
ARABIAN REAS INSURANCE	5,202	1.580	1.600
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	989	1.420	1.440
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	291	1.490	1.540
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	135	2.300	2.300
ARAB INTERNATIONAL REINSURANCE	187,654	5.200	5.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	6,763	1.240	1.230
INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT	660	0.660	0.660
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS	107,248	2.820	2.740
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	813	0.600	0.250
MOHAMED RASHID & SONS	7,280	1.040	1.040
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	158,659	1.160	1.170
JORDAN INVESTMENT CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	50,951	0.840	0.830
ARAB FARM CONVEYING & TRADING	4,073	1.330	1.310
JORDAN BAKERY	2,741	1.490	1.490
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	5,755	2.500	2.570
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	22,204	7.610	7.630
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	12,884	6.940	6.930
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	9,544	5.890	5.890
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2,160	21.520	21.600
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	117,376	6.020	6.020
INTERMEDICINE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES	172,074	7.800	7.800
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	15,976	3.580	3.590
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	7,038	5.660	5.630
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	58,775	0.760	0.800
JORDAN PRESTRESS WIRE	535	5.150	5.150
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	19,600	3.800	3.800
ARAB CENTER FOR FRANK. & CHEMICALS	10,958	2.650	2.840
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	46,760	3.230	3.230
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	174,860	0.780	0.820
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,495	4.650	4.600
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,138	12.600	12.500
WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	687	1.970	1.970
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JEMCO	19,725	1.140	1.140
SPINNING & WEAVING	71,623	3.950	3.900
NATIONAL CARBON & WIRE MANUFACTURING	52,216	6.530	6.450
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	37,102	3.720	3.730
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	22,210	1.280	1.290
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	800	1.850	1.600
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	15,948	0.480	0.480
UNIVERSAL MORTAR INDUSTRIES	47,723	4.830	4.880
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	180,041	2.480	2.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	6,067	8.120	8.150

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USAir LaGuardia terminal

## USAir takes centre stage in New York City

NEW YORK (Agency) — USAir service at LaGuardia will dramatically improve this fall when it moves its operations to a new terminal, providing its customers with the most pleasant experience in a New York City airport.

The architect, William Bodova and Associates, took into consideration the needs of both passengers and employees and created a stunning, dramatically lit, contemporary and functional space.

Furthermore, the USAir terminal is adjacent to the USAir Shuttle terminal, which will make connections between USAir, USAir Express, and the USAir Shuttle very convenient.

New York City is a dominant transportation centre. It boasts the nation's largest port and one of the country's largest air travel markets. Last year 68 million people flew in and out of the three major New York City area airports: LaGuardia, Kennedy, and Newark.

USAir is expanding its presence in this major air travel market, particularly at LaGuardia. This year USAir became the airport's number-one airline, operating 200 daily departures. USAir offers the most service to Florida, and the USAir Shuttle provides on-the-hour service to Boston and Washington, D.C.

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## UNCTAD predicts primary commodity prices to rise 7%

GENEVA (R) — World export prices for primary commodities are expected to grow by about one per cent in 1992, after a fall of around 11 per cent last year, a United Nations study said Tuesday.

Overall commodity prices are expected to rise about seven per cent in 1992, while fuel prices could climb nine per cent, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said.

On balance, the slump in primary commodity prices which continued into 1992 may be expected to be followed by generally firming prices in the course of the year and a moderate upturn in 1993, it said in its annual trade and development report.

Food prices should prove firmer than those of other groups, led by higher demand for cereals in many countries of central and eastern Europe and in sub-Saharan Africa, the report added.

Petroleum prices may be constrained by a potential output increase from new capacity and by quota disagreements in OPEC, the U.N. agency said. "The expected increase in oil prices in 1993 of nine per cent would barely bring nominal prices back to the average recorded for 1991," it said.

Cotton prices are expected to drop sharply due to record world output and moderating consumption this year. But these may be a "partial recovery" in 1993, it said, but gave no figures.

Prices of mineral raw materials are declining, and are expected to rise only slightly on average in 1993, UNCTAD said.

Non-ferrous metal prices are expected to rise sharply in 1993 after declines this year, the report said. A moderating factor may be a possible recovery in exports from the former Soviet Union.

The UNCTAD report noted: "prospects for tin prices appear particularly promising if production cutbacks continue."

The report also mentioned that major industrial countries, facing the prospect of a weak economic recovery this year and next, must cut long-term interest rates and keep them low.

Hampered by the recession, global economic activity in 1992 is forecast to expand by a mere 1.5 per cent and by three per cent next year, according to the UNCTAD report.

The world economy is in a period of uncoordinated, disparate and overall weak growth, with little prospect of a vigorous recovery in the near future," UNCTAD economists wrote in their annual Trade and Development Report.

For recovery to be sustained, long-term interest rates need to fall and to be kept permanently low," the report added.

Despite stagnant production, world trade volumes are expected to grow by a modest five per cent in 1992 and perhaps by six per cent next year, the U.N. agency predicted.

But it accused industrialized nations of greater protectionism for failing to open up their markets to increased exports from developing nations — themselves struggling to maintain commodity prices and often democratic stability.

This shortcoming needs to be corrected in wrapping up the Uruguay Round," the report said, referring to stalled six-year-old negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to liberalize global commerce.

The United States and Britain must invest in worsening infrastructure, while Germany should lead the way in reducing short-term interest rates in Europe, UNCTAD said.

It warned the global economic impasse was being compounded by "debt deflation" — banks are unable to lend, forcing debtors to curtail operations, in turn lowering incomes and prices, thus prolonging the recession.

The present recession is the first in the postwar period in which debt deflation has played a crucial role," the study said.

Kenneth Dadda, UNCTAD secretary-general, told a news briefing to launch the 161-page report: "The private sector in the United States, United Kingdom and Japan is too indebted to be able to generate significant impulses for economic revival. Governments must resume their responsibilities and stimulate the level of economic activity."

Patterns of economic performance will continue to vary by region, but "greater buoyancy at the centre — i.e. the industrial countries" will be critical to the world economy.

Both the United States and western Europe could expect about 1.5 per cent growth this year, doubling the next year if there is sustained recovery, UNCTAD predicted.

Japan, where business confidence has been shaken by financial scandals, could see a return to "more normal growth" in 1993 of about 3.5 per cent. The report gave no 1992 figure.

China is predicted to post about eight per cent growth this year, led by industrial output. Asian nations collectively could expect about six per cent growth this year and next.

The countries of central and eastern Europe, including the former Soviet Union, suffer from sharp declines in industrial output and shortfalls in agricultural output.

After shrinking by 15.4 per cent last year, their economies are expected to contract by 10.3 per cent in 1992 and by an estimated five per cent next year, the UNCTAD report said.

In Latin America, which in 1991 for the first time in many years and a positive net transfer of resources into the region, sustained confidence could bring continued investment capital.

But even with a higher growth rate than the three per cent registered last year, UNCTAD said it would not suffice to ease the chronic unemployment problem and may even renew inflation.

African nations, some of which have been hit by the lowest coffee and cocoa prices in 17 years, will need to diversify exports and continue structural reform. At least a three per cent growth rate is foreseen regionally, much of which is suffering from drought.

For sustained economic recovery, long-term interest rates need to be kept permanently low, the Geneva-based UNCTAD said. "The benefits of short-term interest rates are temporary and insufficient for a recovery to get under way."

The UNCTAD economists urged the U.S. Federal Reserve to revert to targeting interest rates, as it did before 1978, as "virulent inflation is no longer present."

Germany should lower its short-term interest rates nearer prevailing levels in the United States and Japan, they added.

## Strains reappear in the European monetary system

LONDON (R) — The European Community's (EC's) currency grid ran into fresh turbulence Tuesday just a day after Germany cut interest rates to try to ease the pressure that a strong mark had put on it.

The currency worries spilled over into European stock markets, where leading indices lost some of the big gains made Monday when Germany shaved its main Lombard interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 9.5 per cent.

The Italian lira, devalued by seven per cent within Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) Sunday, retreated from Monday's increase in value, forcing the Bank of Italy to intervene on currency markets to support it.

Traders blamed lack of confidence in the Italian economy, which was burdened by a huge and growing state deficit.

Investors also worried that the British pound, which replaced the lira as the weakest currency in the ERM after Sunday's realignment, might be the next to be devalued as it slipped once more in value against the mark.

The pound fell below 2.79 marks, dangerously close to its 2.778 floor against the German currency in the ERM.

It was the lira's persistent failure to lift itself up off its ERM floor despite massive central bank intervention that forced Sunday's devaluation. The British government has said repeatedly that the pound will not be devalued.

In Madrid, the Bank of Spain also intervened in foreign exchange markets to defend the peseta, which along with the Escudo is also seen as vulnerable to strains in the ERM.

The dollar, meanwhile, drifted lower, trading just above 1.47 marks after closing in Europe on Monday at 1.4875. It was hit by the rise in the mark against other European currencies.

With only five days to go until France votes on the Maastricht treaty on European union, traders feared a return to the turmoil which hit currency markets last week.

The international benchmark Brent Blend crude was down seven cents at \$20.60 a barrel for October delivery on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

Oil prices fell on worries that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva, would not reach a strong enough agreement to boost prices in the last quarter of the year.

The international benchmark Brent Blend crude was down seven cents at \$20.60 a barrel for October delivery on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

Gold held steady at the higher levels it reached Monday, trading at \$346.05 an ounce after being fixed earlier in London at \$346.20, unchanged from its closing level.

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The euphoria over German rates starting to fall has faded quite fast, they don't seem likely to drop again soon," said one dealer at a U.S. bank in London.

The announcement by the German Bundesbank on Monday that it was cutting interest rates sent the dollar soaring against the mark while stocks climbed on hopes that the decision was just the first step in a long retreat from record high rates.

But sentiment was sobered by anxiety about the French vote on Sunday coupled with worries that the rate cut was not enough to make a substantial dent in the mark — and thereby take the pressure off weaker European currencies.

French rejection of the Maastricht treaty on Sunday would kill the European Community's current plans for economy and monetary union and create havoc in financial markets.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares was down 24.9 points at 2,397.2 at mid-session, on worries that Britain might still have to raise interest rates to defend the pound even



## Serb forces rain mortar fire on Croat suburb in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces rained mortar fire on a quiet Croat-dominated suburb of Sarajevo Tuesday, Sarajevo Radio reported.

The bombardment, coupled with a surge in fighting elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina, threatened prospects for international peace talks due to start in Geneva Friday.

The radio said the attack on the previously peaceful Stup suburb of the Bosnian capital was apparent retaliation for attempts by Muslim gunmen to disarm local Serbs.

Stup has been spared the worst of the five-month siege by rebel Serbs which has devastated the city.

Sarajevo itself was quiet but the radio said Serb forces continued attacks on the Muslim towns of Brcko, Jajce and Zepa.

According to hospitals in Sarajevo, at least nine people were killed and almost 150 wounded in the city in the 24 hours since 10 a.m. Monday.

At the United Nations, the Security Council adopted a resolution late Monday authorizing an expanded peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina to protect convoys of food and medicine for civilians.

The vote was 12-0 with China, India and Zimbabwe abstaining on the resolution which allows the United Nations to increase the present 1,500 troops in Sarajevo to as many as 7,500 deployed throughout Bosnia.

With the war worsening, the new force could come under heavy fire. Its rules of engagement allow it not only to shoot in self-defence but also to fire if any of the armed combatants prevent peacekeepers carrying out their mandate.

The latest violence threw into serious question plans for the new round of peace talks in Geneva involving Bosnia's Muslim, Serb and Croat leaders.

Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, said he no longer felt he could attend.

Radovan Karadzic, head of the territory's Serbs, threatened to stay away too if the United Nations went ahead with plans to impose a "no-fly" zone in Bosnia's airspace for Serb warplanes.

But in Geneva, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the peace conference, were quoted as saying they would press ahead with the meeting and expected senior representatives of both sides to be there.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government will send its foreign minister to the Geneva peace talks, a United Nations spokesman said.

The spokesman told Reuters Mr. Vance had received a letter from Mr. Izetbegovic saying the minister, Haris Silajdzic, would represent him at the meeting.

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said Mr. Izetbegovic had given "a solemn personal commitment... without conditions" to attend.

"The co-chairmen are determined to see this process go ahead and they do not think the situation on the ground is any justification for stopping it," the spokesman said.

At least 10,000 people have been killed in fighting in Bosnia, mostly between allied Muslims and Croats and minority Serbs, since the republic declared independence from the old Yugoslav Federation last March.

The Bosnian government, controlling only one-third of its territory after the rest was seized by Serbs rebelling against independence, fears peace talks might legitimise Serb gains.

Mr. Karadzic on the other hand has said he has no further territorial aims and wants to talk peace.

Western military sources speak of a growing gap between him and wilder elements of his own forces who seek a military, not a political, settlement.

A senior U.N. officer accused both Serbs and Muslims of seeking military advantage in Monday's clashes.

Colonel Armit Davout, head of the French contingent of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) confirmed at a news conference that heavy artillery had been used despite last weekend's agreement to place it under U.N. supervision.

Mr. Karadzic has said all his guns have been concentrated in the U.N.-defined areas.

But Col. Davout told a news conference that most of the Serb firing had come from at least 10



Muslim fighters keep watch on a hilltop near Sarajevo which is besieged by Serb fighters

unmonitored artillery positions and tanks.

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia has been authorized to protect 4,000 prisoners expected to be released soon from two Serb detention camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina and wish to be taken to Croatia.

The arrangement was disclosed in an exchange of correspondence between Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Security Council President Jose Ayala Lasso of Ecuador made public Monday.

In his letter to the council president, the secretary-general said Mr. Vance had asked him to seek special authority for UNPROFOR to use its existing re-

sources, prior to reinforcement, to protect 4,000 or more Muslim and Croatian prisoners expected to be released soon from Serb detention camps at Manjaca and Trnopolje in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina and who wished to be taken to transit facilities in Croatia.

Dr. Ghali said both camps were within 50 kilometres of UNPROFOR units already deployed in Croatia, where more than 13,000 U.N. personnel are based. But he added that UNPROFOR assistance for convoys of prisoners released from more distant camps would have to await deployment of the additional troops recommended in his report.

## Mandela holds out olive branch to De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG (R) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela was quoted as saying Tuesday he wanted to save South Africa from disaster and make it as easy as possible to resume stalled democracy negotiations with the white government.

"We must pull South Africa from quagmire," Mr. Mandela said in an interview published in the Star newspaper.

Mandela told the Star talks had to resume to save the country from economic, as well as political, disaster.

"We want to break the deadlock because if we don't I fear that the economy is going to be so destroyed that when a democratic government comes into power it will not be able to solve it," Mr. Mandela said.

He said President F.W. De Klerk did not need to make new concessions to the African National Congress (ANC) to get talks underway again. He only needed to deliver on earlier promises to address violence.

Mr. Mandela said the government had to make good its undertakings to the ANC and United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance on fencing in migrant hostels, releasing political prisoners and banning dangerous weapons at public gatherings.

"If Mr. De Klerk can just say to me: 'You have expressed your three concerns, I give you my undertaking that I will address them... I will be able to go back to my people and say: Look, he has met us. Let us meet him,'" Mr. Mandela was quoted as saying.

"On our part we are going to cooperate and I hope Mr. De Klerk is going to cooperate. My message to the government is: Make good on the undertaking you have given us and Mr. Cyrus Vance," Mr. Mandela said before leaving for a two-day visit to Zambia Monday.

The ANC quit multi-party negotiations on a democratic constitution in June after the Boipatong massacre of 43 blacks, accusing the government of clinging to power and complicity in violence.

But after last week's massacre of at least 28 people by Ciskei homeland troops, Mr. Mandela tentatively agreed to a summit with Mr. De Klerk if the government met certain conditions to address political violence which has killed nearly 2,500 people this year.

On Monday, chief negotiators for the government and ANC met to prepare for the crucial summit.

A government spokesman said the two negotiators would probably hold a series of contacts and would try to have something to present at Wednesday's routine cabinet and ANC leadership meetings.

The breakdown in Democracy negotiations has plunged the country into its worst political crisis since Mr. De Klerk began dismantling apartheid in February 1990.

Mr. Mandela told the Star he was deeply worried about the recession-plagued economy and wanted to inspire confidence in the business community which should take strong positions in the transition to democracy.

## Seoul urges N. Korea to solve nuclear issues

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — South Korea's prime minister arrived in rival North Korea Tuesday and warned that this week's high-level talks would make little progress unless lingering nuclear disputes are solved. South Korean pool reports said.

The comments by Chung Won-Shik underlined the pessimistic mood on the South Korean side about the eighth round of talks between the prime ministers of the two sides.

"It is quite natural that as long as there is suspicion about nuclear development, actual progress in South-North relations can hardly be expected," the reports quoted Mr. Chung as saying upon his arrival in the North's capital of Pyongyang.

South Korea has made improved inter-Korea relations conditional on solution of the nuclear disputes. The North has refused to accept inter-Korea nuclear inspections that were part of a ban on nuclear arms the two sides adopted in February.

Since the February accord, various bilateral talks have broken down over the issue. South Korea is demanding challenge inspections that would allow one side to inspect the other side's facilities on short notice, but the North has rejected the idea.

"The issue of nuclear weapons development is not only a threat to the survival and peace of Korea but has an adverse effect on relations between us," Mr. Chung said.

Mr. Chung will hold two rounds of talks Wednesday and Thursday with his northern counterpart, Yon Hyong Muk. The southern delegation returns home Friday.

The high-level talks are the first since Seoul dealt a blow to the North by opening diplomatic relations last month with the North's longtime Communist ally, China.

Pyeongyang has maintained total silence on the Seoul Peking ties, but South Korean officials concede that the impact on inter-Korea relations will be negative, at least temporarily.

News reports from Peking said last week that North Korea closed its border with China, deepening the Communist state's isolation from the outside world.

The disputed inter-Korea inspections are separate from inspections of the North's nuclear facilities by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which began in May.

The United States, Japan, South Korea, and other Western countries believe the IAEA inspections are insufficient because they cover only facilities reported by the host country.

North Korea, one of the world's few remaining Stalinist countries, is reportedly close to developing nuclear weapons. North Korea maintains that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

In his Pyongyang statement, Mr. Chung also renewed Seoul's demand for the reunion of millions of Korean family members separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

## Japan rules out talks with Yeltsin in Okinawa

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Foreign Ministry has ruled out any chance of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa meeting Russian President Boris Yeltsin in mid-November to discuss a long-running territorial dispute, news reports said Tuesday.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Potolrnanin told Interfax News Agency in Moscow Monday that Mr. Yeltsin, who last week put off an official trip to Japan, could meet Mr. Miyazawa in Okinawa before a rescheduled visit to South Korea.

"We cannot think such a proposal reliable unless it is conveyed to us by the Russian Foreign Ministry through an official diplomatic channel," one Japanese Foreign Ministry source told the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper.

"There can be no possibility of the prime minister going all the way to Okinawa to meet the Russian President."

Kyodo News Agency quoted a ministry source as saying Mr. Potolrnanin's comments were made without consulting the Japanese government.

Mr. Yeltsin last week put off trips to Japan and South Korea after failing to reach a compromise with Tokyo on their dispute over four islands off Japan's north coast, seized by the Soviet army at the end of World War II.

Mr. Yeltsin's abrupt cancellation led to angry exchanges between Moscow and Tokyo.

Japan refuses to sign a peace treaty formally ending World War II until it regains its "Northern Territories," known in Russia as the Southern Kuriles. Japan has withheld large-scale economic aid to Russia until the issue is resolved.

Potolrnanin suggested Mr. Yeltsin could meet Mr. Miyazawa in Okinawa on Nov. 11 to arrange the Russian leader's official visit. A Russian official said Sunday that Mr. Yeltsin was expected to visit Seoul from Nov. 12-13.

## U.S. Senate votes again for China trade conditions

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate approved putting conditions on renewal of China's favourable trade status next year, setting up a new veto fight with President George Bush on the sensitive issue of U.S.-Chinese relations.

It acted as the administration formally proposed sending 150 F-16 fighters to Taiwan, a plan the Peking government has sharply criticised since Mr. Bush announced it two weeks ago at the Texas plant where the plane is made.

Last March the Senate sustained Mr. Bush's veto of a China trade sanctions bill. The vote then was 60-38, well short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto.

Like the vetoed bill, the new measure would condition China's renewal of most favoured nation (MFN) trade status on progress on human rights, efforts to release those imprisoned as a result of the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising, cessation of unfair trade practices and adherence to curbs on missile and nuclear exports.

"He's yet to come clean on this. He's yet to give a truthful answer that can be maintained for more than three days."

"So I would assume he wants to use this forum to do that, but I don't know about that," he added.

The Bush campaign strategy of at least threatening to bring up the draft issue appears to have forced the Democrat to spend time in Utah, a state that is decidedly in the Bush camp.

"I think I ought to be there. I'm the commander of a National Guard unit and it's a very good one... I've had contact with a lot of these folks for years and I think I ought to show up," the Arkansas governor said.

Mr. Clinton has said he originally received a student deferment to avoid the draft, but later surrendered it, and was never called to serve.

Former President Ronald Reagan, campaigning with Mr. Bush Sunday in Orange County, California, said Mr. Clinton did not like California's Santa Ana winds because "he prefers to stand clear of drafts."

On a three-day tour of six states in the west, Bush is looking for a boost as he tries to defy the odds that say an incumbent saddled with the deep economic problems facing America cannot win reelection.

## COLUMN

### Australian no longer has nose for business

SYDNEY (R) — A row between two Australian business partners ended in a brawl in which one man had part of his nose bitten off after he sank his teeth into the other's thumb, police said. Monday's fight in Sydney will wind up in a local court next month with the 31-year-old nose-biter facing charges of maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm. The 28-year-old victim was taken to hospital, a police spokeswoman said.

### King Carl cuts down on smoking

STOCKHOLM (AP) — King Carl XVI Gustaf used to be a heavy smoker until his daughter told him to quit, news reports said. Now he is a party smoker who occasionally sneaks out for a smoke, when Crown Princess Victoria is not watching, the Express newspaper reported. On learning in school about the dangers of smoking, the 15-year-old princess started a campaign against smoking in the castle, nagging her father as soon as he lit up a cigarette. "The king listened to Victoria. He really cut down," the king's press officer Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg was quoted as saying. As a result, the royal residence Drottningholm Castle outside Stockholm now is virtually smoke free, news reports said. It was not disclosed how many cigarettes per day the king used to smoke or how long it took for him to cut down.

### Gretzky is a dad for 3rd time

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wayne Gretzky became a father for the third time Monday with the birth of Trevor Douglas, who weighed eight pounds, seven ounces. Gretzky's wife, Janet Jones, gave birth 8:05 a.m. (1500 GMT). The Los Angeles Kings said both mother and child were doing well. Gretzky's other children are Paulina, 3, and Ty, 2.

### Monaco cathedral packed for homage to Grace

MONTE CARLO (R) — Monaco residents packed out the Mediterranean principality's cathedral for a special mass to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of their much-loved Princess Grace. Hundreds were turned away from a service to celebrate the life of the woman who gave up a glittering career as a Hollywood star to marry into one of Europe's last surviving monarchies. Princess Grace's widower, Prince Rainier, attended with all three of their children, Caroline, Albert and Stephanie. There had been doubts that Stephanie, who is expecting a baby in November by a former palace bodyguard, would turn up because of a public outcry about her out-of-wedlock pregnancy. Princess Grace, born Grace Kelly, died in a car crash at the age of 53, stunning subjects who had lavished affection on her from the day she married Prince Rainier in 1956. Each member of the royal family laid roses in turn on Princess Grace's tomb, already covered in flowers from well-wishers who had lined up during the day. French Television marked the occasion by showing one of the best-remembered Grace Kelly films — the Hitchcock thriller Dial M For Murder.

### Fergie's sister settles magazine defamation case

SYDNEY (R) — A defamation case brought against Rupert Murdoch's nationwide news media group by Jane Makin, sister of Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson, was settled out of court Monday on undisclosed terms. Mr. Makin sought damages in the Supreme Court over a story in the Australian women's magazine New Idea in April 1990 about her marriage to Australian farmer Alex Makin. The couple are now separated. Counsel for Jane Makin, 34, distributed copies of new idea's planned apology after the settlement was announced in court. "New idea accepts that (the) allegations were without foundation and apologises to Mrs. Makin for their publication," the apology read. Mrs. Makin told reporters she was happy with the apology and said the settlement was "extremely satisfactory." She married Alex Makin in 1975 and lived on his cattle property near Goodwood on the Queensland-New South Wales border with their two children. She successfully sued Nationwide News in 1990 for damages arising from a separate article.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### CIS parliamentary assembly opens

MOSCOW (R) — The first assembly of Commonwealth parliaments opened Tuesday in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek to find ways of coordinating policy, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. Seven of the 11 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including Russia, agreed to set up a coordinating body with no right to take binding decisions. Its main aim is to keep parliaments informed on issues being considered by other legislatures. Four CIS members have declined to join the assembly, but Azerbaijan sent an observer to the meeting in the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan, TASS said. Even the limited powers of the assembly have run into objections from some of the CIS members, including powerful Ukraine, which says any attempt to set up a CIS inter-state body will infringe the country's newly-gained independence. This contrasts with the policy of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev who argues only coordination of economic reforms might save the ailing economies of the former Soviet republics from collapse. He is expected to press his position at a forthcoming summit of CIS leaders scheduled for Bishkek on Sept. 25.

### Cosmonauts make new space walk

MOSCOW (R) — Russian cosmonauts took their third space walk in eight days Tuesday to improve communications on the orbiting space station Mir, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The pair, Anatoly Solovoyov and Sergei Avdeyev, were due to spend three hours outside the spacecraft installing an additional aerial. Mir has been the focus of the Soviet — now Commonwealth — space programme since its launch in 1986. Solovoyov and Avdeyev, who will man it until early next year, have been given the task of modernising the station to extend its working life into the mid-1990s. Tuesday's space walk was the fourth since Solovoyov and Avdeyev took over the Mir station in July. The two and Michel Tognini from France spent two weeks aboard the station together with the previous crew, which had stayed aloft for five months.

### Opposition grows to Canada unity accord

OTTAWA (R) — Growing opposition to Canada's national unity accord has aligned Quebec separatists with a rightist party and the feminist movement, unlikely allies in the campaign for an Oct. 26 referendum. The country's main feminist umbrella organisation called on Canadian women to vote "no" to the deal aimed at keeping French-speaking Quebec in Canada saying it threatened gains in women's rights. "When we discussed holding our noses and voting 'yes', we choked," Judy Rebick, leader of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, which represents 560 feminist groups, told a news conference. "Nothing we asked for is in this accord... this is a bad deal for women," Ms. Rebick said. Last week the Reform Party, started in western Canada by disaffected conservatives, announced it will campaign against the accord because it failed to give the west a bigger say in national affairs. Reform leader Preston Manning, a staunch opponent of giving Quebec any special status in Canada, called for a five-year moratorium in constitutional negotiations aimed at accommodating Quebec's demands for more political autonomy.

### Earthquake rattles southern California

YUCCA VALLEY, California (AP) — An earthquake rumbled through southern California early Tuesday, shaking pictures from walls and splashing water out of a swimming pool. No injuries were reported. The quake registered a magnitude 4.7 and its epicentre was six miles (10 kilometres) southeast of the desert community of Yucca Valley, said Steve Bryant, spokesman for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Mr. Bryant said the quake struck at 1:47 a.m. (0747 GMT) and was an aftershock of the June 28 quake in Landers. Linda Drott, public information officer with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, said the only immediate report of damage was some broken dishes. The quake was felt 140 miles (225 kilometres) south in San Diego and as far west as Hollywood.

## Anti-army parties to act quickly on Thai premier

BANGKOK (R) — The leaders of four anti-military parties reaffirmed Tuesday their choice of Democrat Party leader Chuan Leekpai as Thailand's next prime minister.

"The four parties have agreed to nominate me as prime minister and agreed to appoint as president of parliament a member of the Democrat Party," Chuan told a news conference after a three-hour meeting with his allies.

It will be the first job of the parliamentary president to nominate a prime minister to King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The four pro-democracy allies made huge gains in a general election Sunday because of their strong opposition to Suchinda Kraprayoon, a general made prime minister on April 7 by pro-military parties even though he had not stood for parliament in March elections.

Gen. Suchinda was forced to resign in disgrace in May after his

soldiers killed scores of demonstrators who said his appointment was an affront to democracy.

The four parties in the Democratic Alliance won 185 seats in the 360-seat House of Representatives, the more powerful lower house of parliament.

Mr. Chuan said he would form a new government, the fifty-third for coup-plagued Thailand since it abandoned absolute monarchy in 1932, as quickly as possible.

But he said he had to follow constitutional rules, which require that parliament be convened first to elect a president and await the king's endorsement of a prime minister.

The constitution stipulates that parliament must convene within 30 days of the election.

Mr. Chuan said that after he was named prime minister his coalition would bring in a fifth party to expand its majority. The cabinet will be formed after the fifth party is recruited.

## Red Cross, agencies struggle to cope with disasters

WASHINGTON (AP) — An unprecedented string of natural disasters from Florida to Guam has left the American Red Cross and sister agencies in need of relief themselves.

Hurricane Andrew was only the most visible of one of the worst strings of natural calamities in the United States in Modern times.

Hundreds of thousands have been victimised by rapid-fire blows from Andrew in Florida and Louisiana, tornadoes in Wisconsin, typhoon Omar in Guam and the latest, Hurricane Iniki on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai.

"It's fair to say that this kind of situation is unprecedented," Red Cross spokesman David Giroux said Monday.

"These cataclysmic events are almost Biblical in proportion," Salvation Army Col. Leon Ferraz said. "We think there's going to be a real crunch" in resources for disaster relief, estimating the Salvation Army will spend \$40 million to \$50 million on Andrew aid.

## Bush demands rewrite of environment law

COLVILLE, Washington (R) — President George Bush hunted votes in depressed logging areas of the Pacific northwest Monday with a vow to help the timber industry by forcing revision of a controversial environment law to give jobs priority.

"I will not sign an extension of the Endangered Species Act unless it gives greater consideration to jobs, and to families and communities too," he told a rally at a lumber mill. "It is time to make people more important than owls."

Mr. Bush was referring to protection of the rare northern spotted owl under the twenty-year-old law, which has placed millions of acres (hundreds of federal forest) off limits to logging and thrown thousands of timber workers out of jobs.

The act will expire at the end of the year unless Congress approves an extension and the president signs legislation.

Mr. Bush, on day two of a three-day swing through the west, coupled his pledge to force an overhaul of the act with a blast at his Democratic rival Bill Clinton, who was also campaigning in the northwest.

Mr. Clinton says that if he is elected president on Nov. 3, he will hold a spotted owl summit with elected officials in Washington and Oregon to resolve the controversy.

His voice rising, Mr. Bush declared: "There have already been more than 40 bipartisan meetings of the northwest congressional delegation for three years."

"We don't need any more studies of the problem. We need action in the U.S. Congress."

Even as Mr. Bush worked to drum up political support in a region where he is in deep trouble, his campaign was buffeted by a report that former President Richard Nixon believes that he has only a 30 per cent chance of defeating Mr. Clinton right now.

The report, in Monday's Los Angeles Times, quoted Mr. Nixon associates as saying that the former president believes California, which alone accounts for one fifth of the electoral votes needed to win the presidency, is "definitely a lost cause" for Mr. Bush.

Mr. Nixon, a California native who began his political career there, is urging the Bush camp to write off the country's most populous state and focus on Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey, the newspaper said.

Those four states are up for grabs, according to most polls, and many analysts believe the election will turn on which candidate captures a majority of them.

Asked about the Times report, Bush campaign spokeswoman Torie Clarke said: "President Nixon is a very smart man, but we're just not going to write off